

21st March 1934]

A.—(a) & (b) A petition, dated 6th February 1934, signed by K. N. Venkatarama Chetti and others of Namakkal was received by the Government and was transferred for disposal to the Commissioner of Excise who has to deal with applications for such licences.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1934-35.

DEMAND XV—AGENT FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS—RESERVED.

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“ Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move

‘ that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,300 under Demand XV—Agent for Government Consignments—Reserved.’ ”

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—“ Sir, I move—

‘ to reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,300 for Agent for Government Consignments—Reserved, by Rs. 100.’

In my district there are seaport stations, called Vadarevu, Nizampet and Kothapeta. Till recently Nizampet was a recognized port and we were agitating for the recognition of Vadarevu also as a seaport. As Vadarevu is not a recognized port, large quantities of groundnuts to the extent of one lakh and odd tons, have now to be carried to Masulipatam for exporting purposes. As the producer has to pay railway freight on all this from Guntur to Masulipatam, he is not getting full value for his produce. If Vadarevu is recognized as a port, we could export all our produce from there and avoid this transhipment to Masulipatam. Recently a limited company has been formed there to encourage export trade and facilitate the recognition of Vadarevu as a seaport and they have constructed several small boats for carrying these products, etc., to the sea-going vessels. One or two private companies have looked into this question and have come to the conclusion that in the business interests it would be very desirable to convert Vadarevu into a seaport. As a matter of fact one European company has promised to make Vadarevu into a port at a cost of 10 or 12 lakhs if only they would be permitted to change the name Vadarevu into the donor's name. That is why I request that this may be recognized as a port. But, as I said, when we are agitating for converting Vadarevu into a port, the authorities took away from the recognized list Nizampet port also. It means that when we wanted more what we had has been taken away. I request the Hon. Member who has himself visited Vadarevu to consider this question. As a matter of fact, even in the days when we had no connexion with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, Vadarevu was a thriving seaport doing big export and import business as is evident from what is left of the old godowns, etc., to be seen there. The hon. Member himself has seen this also. I request him to recognize Vadarevu as a port.”

[21st March 1934]

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I was listening carefully to the representations which my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnayya Choudari, made. As a matter of fact, this Vadarevu is port under the Indian Ports Act. Recently, the Central Board of Revenue issued a notification to the effect that this is a port only for the purpose of coasting trade and not for foreign trade. Now my hon. Friend said that a private company or a rich merchant is prepared to construct a pier at a cost of about 12 lakhs. Representations of a similar nature, but not mentioning this sum of 12 lakhs, was made by Mr. Kuppuswami Choudari to Mr. Hood who is in charge of this department and they had conversations. Ultimately a reply was sent by Mr. Hood to Mr. Kuppuswami Choudari. Apparently, my hon. Friend has not seen that reply. As a matter of fact, the Presidency Port Officer is against making this Vadarevu port available for foreign trade. The Central Board of Revenue also are against it. As the matter stands at present, it is difficult to make it a port for foreign trade. But having regard to the representation made by my hon. Friend, I shall bear this question in mind.

"With reference to the Nizampet port, the Presidency Port Officer reported that there was no trade at all for the last eighteen months and so for the purpose of economy it was closed. Unless there is improvement in the trade, I am afraid it will not be possible to reopen it. These are the difficulties in our way."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

DEMAND XVI—ELECTRICITY—RESERVED.

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—"

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rupees 51,18,800 under Demand XVI—Electricity—Reserved.'"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move the cut motion standing in my name, namely—"

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 84,900 for Electricity—Reserved—Hydro-Electric Survey—Pay of officers by Rs. 100.'

Sir, electricity is a remunerative enterprise so far as we are concerned. I should like to know, therefore, how the thing is being managed, so far as one or two schemes are concerned. With regard to Pykara I should like to know from the hon. Member in charge whether his expectations with reference to the taking of power have been realized and whether all the power available has been taken up so far. We are under the impression that a lot of power is available for which a market has to be found. This view is supported by the activities of Government in extending the transmission lines in all directions going as far as Salem on one side and Cochin on the other.

21st March 1934] [Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar]

"Then there is the question which I raised in this House last year, namely, the giving of power for agricultural operations. From the way in which this business was managed in the beginning I thought the intention was to care more for supply in bulk than for supply in retail for agricultural operations and things of that kind. I know the difficulties that will naturally arise in any scheme of power supply for agricultural and allied purposes. The power taken will be very small and probably the transmission lines will have to be longer than in other cases. Also the central station from which the power should be transmitted would have to be located in a suitable place. But all this will have to be done if the cultivators are to benefit by this. Sir, last year I also raised the question of the rate charged for power consumed for agricultural operations.

"I mentioned last year that the rates charged for agricultural operations are high, and the hon. Member in charge promised to look into the matter. I should like to know whether as a result of his inquiry, any concessions have been given, and if so, how far those concessions have been availed of. 11-15 a.m.

"Then, Sir, I wish to address myself to the question of the utilization of this power for purposes which are under the control of the Government itself. I mean, Sir, the electrification of Government buildings and residences of Government officers. For instance, in Coimbatore, you have got a number of such buildings and residences, and these can be very easily electrified. Those offices and officers are incurring a lot of expenditure now by way of peons and punka pullers, for lighting and such other purposes. In the case of the residences of these officers, the interest on the outlay of electrifying their residences, can be collected from them, and so the Government will not be losers. Similarly in the case of Government offices a lot of expenditure incurred under the head 'Contingencies' can be saved also. Thus on the whole Government will be only gainers and not losers. So, I should like to know from the hon. Member in charge whether he is going to take up this matter as a whole, and see that all the public offices and the residences of the Government Officers are electrified, so that there may be a saving in the Budget of 'Electricity' and the Budgets of other heads put together. If electricity is really cheaper than man-power, I think the proposal I suggest will lead to a lot of saving under this head.

"I will also say that at the present moment money is cheap in the market, and if capital expenditure is going to be incurred for the purpose of electrifying these public buildings, probably this will be the best time.

"Then, I wish to refer to one other matter, namely, the complaint of the Calicut Municipal Council, with reference to the treatment accorded to them by the Government. I may say at once that I do not know the facts of the case; I am only saying this from the pamphlet circulated among the Members of this House. From that it would appear that the licensee to whom the right of distribution was given, was not in a position to carry out the terms of the contract; and that at

[Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar] [21st March 1934]

that stage the municipal council applied for the grant of the concession to them. And also a third party wanted to become the transferee of the licence. The right of granting licence reverts in the Government by whom the original licence was granted. If that is the case and if the Government were not bound to give the concession to the third party transferee, then I don't know why Government should not have given that licence to the Calicut Municipal Council themselves, all the more so, after the Hon. the Law Member had said that he would see that preference is always given to municipal councils. (The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar: 'No, no, not in this case; I did not say that with respect to this case.') Yes, I know the Hon. the Law Member did not say that in this particular case. When the general question was raised, when the Coimbatore Municipality applied for the grant of licence, as to whom the licence should be given, it was on that occasion that it was said that applications from public bodies should be preferred to private individuals or companies, which wanted to make money out of it. It was to that that I was referring, Sir. If that principle is going to be applied all round and if the Calicut Municipality is entitled to that privilege, I do not know why Government thought fit to recognize the claims of the third party instead of giving that licence to this Municipality. As I said, Sir, I do not know all the facts of the case, as I have no personal knowledge of the matter. From the pamphlet I have in my hand, it seems to me that this is a matter which requires reconsideration by Government. I hope Government will see whether it is not possible to accede to the request of the Calicut Municipal Council. I may say from the paper circulated, the Municipality seems to feel very strongly in the matter, and it seems they have resolved not to take any power from the scheme, and it seems they have also asked the rate-payers also not to take power from the scheme. That shows that strong feeling exists in the matter. So, it is all the more why the matter should be reconsidered by the Government.

"I have been urging in this Council with reference to the supply of power to the bigger mills, whether the charge that was levied by the Government is always cheaper than the cost incurred by them for power they are generating from firewood or oil. Now the price of oil and firewood has come down considerably. So, in consideration of that I should like to know from Government whether they are going to reduce the rate so as to suit to the requirements of the situation. I may say that so far as new mills are concerned they will be no doubt very glad to start with an electric plant because that would mean to them less capital investment. It means also that they are able to get from Government power without themselves incurring any expenditure in installing the necessary machinery. But so far as old mills are concerned, there is no sort of inducement for them to change to electric power, because they have already got machinery for generating power, which they cannot scrap so easily, and sometimes it may happen that such machinery, if it is to be sold, cannot fetch any decent price in the market. In view of this I hope Government will reconsider their decision as regards the fixing of rates."

21st March 1934]

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" Mr. President, Sir, last year speaking on the Pykara Electric Scheme, we said that we are glad that it has become an accomplished fact, and that our congratulations should go forth to Major Howard and the Hon. Sir M. Krishnan Nayar for expediting the scheme and bringing it to fruition. On this matter I must say that if only Government will revise the tariff rates, the scheme is bound to succeed than what it is to-day. Even with the present rates I think the Government are sure to get a better outturn than what was expected when the scheme was ushered in. I do not think Government would be justified in making very large revenues out of the scheme, even though it is a remunerative concern. In fact they should not expect more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent out of it. When the rate of interest advanced by the Government of India for such purposes has been reduced, it is but natural also that this Government should expect only a reduced outturn from these schemes. If they wish to work out the scheme, then surely they must reduce the rate to some extent. In the long run by a reduction in rate, Government will stand to gain, as also the people; for the greater the quantity of power consumed the greater will be the revenue for Government; and so Government need not at all feel shy to reduce the rate. Further if the rates are reduced, it will be a greater inducement for more and more industries to spring up.

" Since last year, I am glad to find that Government have reduced the rate of electric power for agricultural operations from As. 1-6 to 1 anna. Even this the agricultural ryots find it rather high. The oil-engine plants which they were having previously for generating this power were costing them only from 9 pies to 10 pies, whereas the Government rate is 1 anna. Unless this rate is reduced to 9 pies, the ryots may not go in for hydro-electric power in a large measure. So also small industries like ginning factories and others which are having 20 or 30 horse-power find that the rate of 1 anna works out much more than what it was costing them previously. I know of a concrete instance. The St. Joseph's Industrial school, which was having a 15 horse-power motor-engine was getting electric power at the rate of 9 pies per unit and when they changed it for the hydro-electric power, it cost them more than 1 anna. The school authorities also brought this to the notice of the Chief Engineer for Electric Supply and also perhaps to the Government. I am afraid the reduction granted in this respect is not at all adequate. Therefore I would request the Government to reduce the rate still further so that the Government may be benefited in the long run. Besides agriculture and small industries, even big mills find that it is not advantageous for them to go in for hydro-electric power. Though I cannot agree with Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar that the cost of electric power per unit which is generated by using fuel and oil was less than the rate per unit of hydro-electric power, unless the use of hydro-electric power is more advantageous to the mill-owners, it will be very difficult for the old mills to change for the hydro-electric power. Unless the rate charged for the hydro-electric power is less than what it was costing the mills previously, it will not be possible for the mills to change for the hydro-electric power.

[Mr. C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar] [21st March 1934]

11-30
a.m.

“ While speaking on this subject I may say that Government should also be more liberal in paying advances to old mills and new mills in the matter of equipment of those mills with electrical appliances. If the Government were to be more liberal, I am sure more mills will spring up in Coimbatore and also in the area round the Pykara Hydro-Electric Works, which will be advantageous both to the Government and to the people.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar, referred to the non-electrification of Government quarters and other offices by the use of the hydro-electric power from Pykara. Government have been very prompt in supplying electricity to Government quarters and other offices in places for which licences had been given to private companies. In the case of Guntur, Government have sanctioned a very large grant for electrification of the Government quarters. I must say it is to the advantage of the Government to see that Government quarters and other public offices are provided with electricity. I understood Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar to say that it would also give additional revenues to the Government because of the enhanced rental value which may be realized by the occupation of those Government quarters.

“ Coming to the grant of licences to Calicut and other places Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar invited the attention of the Government to the policy which they initiated at the time of granting licences, viz., that preference would be given to local bodies for the supply of hydro-electric power. So far as the Erode and Salem Municipal Councils were concerned, there was a complete change in their work, viz., of taking hydro-electric power from the Pykara Works and as such I cannot understand the attitude of the Government in still not considering the claims of the Erode and Salem Municipal Councils to undertake this work. So far as these municipal councils are concerned, the scheme itself has been completely changed, and the Octavius Steel Company have no right of continuing the licences in their own hands. The Government have not adopted a sympathetic policy towards the municipalities. Owing to this the Government themselves are losing a considerable sum of money. The Salem and Erode Municipal Councils have resolved that they will not take electric power from the hands of the Octavius Steel Company. I do not think the Government realize that this is a loss to them. In this connexion I may say that the Erode Municipal Council will go to the length of purchasing from the Octavius Steel Company all their electrical equipments and in that case the Government will not lose anything. On the other hand they will stand to gain, because they will be able to supply electric power to a greater extent from Pykara to the municipality.

“ Coming to another scheme, viz., Kollegal scheme, Kollegal is isolated from this district and it is in a corner and is very close to the Sivasamudram falls which is the headquarters of the Mysore Electric Supply Scheme. It was not possible to supply electricity to this place from Pykara, because the intervening distance was very long. Therefore it was proposed to purchase power from the Mysore Government, i.e., the power generated at Sivasamudram. I understand that the cost of

21st March 1934] [Mr. C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar]

the line between Sivasamudram and Kollegal is going to be charged to the general supply scheme. That is very hard. As the Mysore Government intend taking their supply through Kollegal to certain places which are situated within the Mysore State it is not fair that the cost of the line between Kollegal and Sivasamudram should be charged to the Kollegal general supply scheme. So I request this Government to move the Mysore Government to see that the cost of the line between Kollegal and Sivasamudram is charged to a general scheme and not to a scheme relating to Kollegal Union.

“ Since speaking on this subject I am glad—I think the House also will be very glad—that the rate per unit of electricity in Madras has been reduced. I still feel there is justification for some more reduction. I think the rate was reduced by one anna. It is not at all sufficient. I can prove that the Madras Electric Supply Corporation even at this rate must be making large profits. For the purpose of balance sheet and for the purpose of giving figures to the Government, they may say that they are making out only 6 or 7 per cent. There are many ways of manipulating these figures. Now the Government themselves are working out many of these supply schemes in several places such as Dindigul, etc., and therefore they must be in a position to know how cheap it is to supply electric power. Therefore, they must ask the Electric Supply Corporation to reduce their rate still further.”

* Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—“ I also join my hon. Friends who spoke before me in congratulating the Hon. the Law Member in expediting the supply of electric power to Tiruppur, Coimbatore and other places. The object of my rising to speak on this subject is just to ask the Government what they are going to do with regard to the supply of electricity to the Calicut town. Two or three years ago a private gentleman started an electric installation with which he was able to supply houses in certain portions of the municipality with electric lights and fans I mean the houses situated in the municipality. There have been no electric lights in the streets of Calicut Municipality because the private gentleman referred to and the municipality quarrelled with each other with regard to the supply of electricity or with regard to some other details. That gentleman, it seems, has sold that right to some company or other at some considerable amount of profit. But unfortunately for the people of Calicut the supply of electricity was absolutely stopped owing to some defect in the engine. About the end of February I wrote to that company if as a matter of fact they were going to supply us with electricity. After two days they replied that they hoped to have it done about the end of March. So, for one month they did not have electric lights or fans working. We had to resuscitate superannuated old lamps and with them we have been lighting our houses. How unsatisfactory this is can be imagined.

“ Then, with regard to the rate per unit, the rate charged there is simply outrageous. They charge As. 8, whereas As. 4 is charged in other municipalities. In these circumstances I want to know why it is that Government have not supplied the Calicut Municipality with electricity

[Mr. K. P. Raman Menon]

[21st March 1934]

from Pykara. Is it a case where concession has been granted to a private company and which cannot be broken? If that is so, it was a very good opportunity; when the private gentleman who started this concern sold that right to another firm, the Government could have stepped into the shoes of that private firm and taken up the matter in their own hands and proceeded to supply electricity to the various firms and others working in Calicut. To an interpellation of mine, I was told that the distance between Pykara and Calicut is 70 miles. I learn that the distance from Pykara to Tiruppur is 75 miles, and from Pykara to Coimbatore it is 66 miles. Again a line has been laid from Coimbatore to Palghat to a distance of 96 miles. Under these circumstances I fail to see why electric power cannot be supplied to Calicut from Pykara scheme. The municipality has been anxious to secure this right. Perhaps they have to some extent mishandled the situation, but anyhow it is up to the Government to see that the lighting of the town is entrusted in the hands of the municipality rather than in the hands of a third party who is concerned more with making a large profit out of the concern. I make this suggestion with a view to see if yet it is possible that the private firm which has now been granted a licence cannot be got rid of and the licence given to the municipality. I shall be very glad to know why it is that the municipality of Calicut has been unable to secure the concession from the Government. There must be something wrong in handling the situation and I should be very glad at least for the sake of the people of Calicut to know what the attitude of the Government is in connexion with this matter."

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, it is a matter of great satisfaction to know that the Government of Madras have been able to complete the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme in a manner satisfactory to the country. I have given a token cut motion to discuss what arrangements the Government have made if there is a breakdown or some accident. I find from the report that has been presented to us that the high-tension wire runs a distance of about 316 miles. Of course there is the Electricity Act to deal with cases of accidents in this department. But as the wire passes through a vast country where the people are not so much literate, it is often possible that accidents may happen. I think it is up to the Government to let the people know in the area through which this high-tension wire passes and see what precautionary measures will have to be adopted to safeguard human life. In one place of the report I find that at the headworks there is much malaria and efforts are being made to find ways and means of keeping the staff healthy. In view of the fact that the electric current is being consumed in various districts far and near, I think no time should be lost to find ways and means of keeping the staff at the headworks in good health.

"I find that my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar, touched about the use of electricity by the agriculturists. I think in previous years I also joined with him and said that Government must find ways and means as to how best they could help the agricultural ryots by supplying them with cheap electricity. Now the high-tension wire passes

21st March 1934] [Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai]

through a dry country where it is not possible to get water easily for irrigation purposes. I understand that in advanced countries electricity is made use of in boring wells thereby giving water to agriculturists. I would request the Government to see whether they could also extend their hands to the agriculturists in this matter. Sir, as one coming from Nilgiris, I could see the use of electricity from Nilgiris as far as Erode. But I understand that the cost per unit is high. Taking Mysore into account, I think cheaper current is supplied in Mysore than what is obtained in this Presidency.

“ So far, it has not been possible for the poor man to take to electricity owing to the high cost prevailing. I am sure that the arguments advanced by hon. Members who have preceded me would convince the Government and they would make some arrangement by which cheaper current can be supplied to poor people. I know as a matter of fact that in the town of Ootacamund which began to use the electricity from Pykara, people find it difficult to use electricity on account of the high cost prevailing. 11-45 a.m.

“ My hon. Friend, Raman Menon, touched about giving electricity from Pykara to Calicut. I read in the report that Glen Morgan plant which was supplying electricity to Ootacamund and Coonoor before the main plant was working, is lying idle. At times the power that is generated from the Glen Morgan plant is being utilized along with the main plant. I think the distance from Pykara to Calicut is not so much as that from Pykara to Tiruppur. The hon. Member, Mr. Thangal, interpellated yesterday as regards the question of supplying electricity to Malabar. I hope the Government would seriously consider the question whether the current generated from the Glen Morgan plant could not be diverted to Calicut and other places. I am sure that greater amount of electricity can be used by the poor people if the cost of production is less.

“ I cannot close my speech without paying a tribute to His Excellency Lord Willingdon and the then Law Member, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, who were responsible for initiating this important hydro-electric scheme and to the present Law Member, Sir Krishnan Nayar, for completing that project. This is a very important scheme and I think in years to come it will prove beneficial to the revenues of this Province.”

* Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I should like to say a few words on this subject about which I have been interesting myself in putting interpellations from time to time. I am glad that the town of Salem has been supplied with electricity from Pykara; but our complaint all along has been that the charges made are enormously high. I thought that after the current from Pykara is introduced the charges may be reduced to some extent. But, I find that no reduction has been made so far. I would request the Government to consider that aspect of the question and popularize electricity by making it cheap.

[Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder] [21st March 1934]

“ With regard to the hydro-electric scheme at Mettur, from the Hon. the Finance Member's speech, there is some apprehension that the scheme will not be immediately taken up and proceeded with. So far I think considerable sums have been spent on that scheme by putting up pipes and by making other arrangements at Mettur, and the Government should not delay or postpone the execution of this scheme soon. A number of important schemes in Salem district depend upon this hydro-electric project. Firstly, it will affect the supply of drinking water to the town of Salem from Mettur reservoir. This question mainly depends upon this hydro-electric scheme. If this scheme is to be postponed, it will necessitate the matter of providing the crying need of the problem of drinking water to Salem town from Mettur reservoir being deferred indefinitely.

“ The other day when I was speaking on the Demand VII—Irrigation (Cauvery-Mettur Project), I was making suggestions that some area in Salem district can be provided with water for irrigation from Mettur reservoir by means of pumping. A friend of mine, who is a retired engineer and who has got a good knowledge of these parts, informs me that it would be of great advantage to try this pumping system. This system depends upon electricity to be produced at Mettur by means of the proposed hydro-electric scheme there. If this scheme is to be deferred for the present or if it is to be postponed, it will hinder a great deal and put back the benefits which Salem district is likely to derive from this huge reservoir.

“ With regard to the question of electrifying some of the towns such as Tiruchengodu, Yedapadi, etc., in Salem district, no further action seems to have been taken. I had occasion to speak to the Engineer of the Electrical Company which is distributing current at Salem and he says to me that sufficient number of people are not forthcoming to take up electricity for mills, etc., in those places. Since the present rate of charges for electricity is great, since people fear that the working expenses will be very high besides the capital expenditure they will have to incur by changing the machinery, etc., they fear very much to take to electricity. In order to popularize electricity and in order to induce the people to enjoy the amenities of electricity, the Government should reduce the charges considerably. If that is done, the mill-owners and the general public will readily take to this power and it will be of great advantage to the development of many of the useful rural industries in the district of Salem. I request the Government to consider that question and to see that rural parts are electrified as early as possible.

— “ Last year I referred to the question of starting an hydro-electric project at Papanasam in the Tinnevely district. I am told that that place has very great facilities for developing a big hydro-electric project and that some important mills can be started there. Some days back I got a pamphlet stating that every facility for starting paper industry in that place is available there. If an hydro-electric project in that place is taken on hand, a paper-mill also can very well be

21st March 1934] [Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder]

started along with it and it would be a very profitable concern to the Government. So, I would request the Hon. the Law Member to consider that scheme also. With regard to the Mettur scheme, I would request him once again to make speedy arrangements to push on the scheme and complete it as early as possible. With these words, I have great pleasure to give my support to this cut motion."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I have given notice of a cut motion to elicit information with regard to the conditions on which licence was granted to Mr. K. C. Menon for supplying electricity to the Calicut town, whether he has fulfilled all the conditions of the licence and whether the Calicut Municipal Council wanted the licence to be granted to it. I put some interpellations on this matter some days back and they have not been answered so far. This matter has been referred to by the previous speakers and I do not think I should take much time of the House over it. I am given to understand that Mr. K. C. Menon was given this electric licence about 7 years ago—I think it is a fact. The Government also have stated that for the last 7 years this licensee has not been able to carry out the object of the licence. This also cannot be denied by the Government. Very soon after the licence was given, it was found that his financial position was unstable and that he would not be able to carry out the purpose of this licence. This fact was brought to the notice of the Government. When the Government came to know of this fact that he would not be in a position to carry out the purpose of this licence and that he had broken the conditions under which the licence was given, the Government should have revoked that licence and given it to some other competent person or to the municipality itself which has been insisting upon its getting the licence. I think the Government are not justified in allowing matters to go on like this for over 7 years and in depriving the people of Calicut of the benefits of electricity. It has become a necessity in these days. I must say that the action of the Government is really responsible for the people of Calicut being deprived of the benefits of electricity. So far as I can see, no reason has been given by the Government why they should not revoke the licence given to Mr. K. C. Menon when they found that he was not able to fulfil the conditions of the licence soon after it was granted. If there were no other applicants, the Government ought to have called for such applicants. After all, the statute itself provides that, if the municipality is prepared to work out the scheme, it should be preferred to other applicants. I do not see any reason why the Government should not comply with that request. What I understand is this; I speak subject to correction by the Hon. the Law Member. Even after the municipality made this request to the Government to allow it to carry out the scheme, they have allowed Mr. K. C. Menon to assign his licence to a third party, to some corporation or institution outside Malabar. I am not so much concerned who that person is. I understand that even that assignment has not been completed. I would like to know what are the conditions under which the Government have agreed

[B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur] [21st March 1934]

to this assignment. In spite of the fact that Mr. K. C. Menon has been successful in depriving the people of Calicut of the benefits of electricity, I do not know what the conditions which the Government have put upon the proposed assignee are. How far this business of assignment has proceeded, I would like to know from the Hon. the Law Member. When this proposal of assignment was under negotiation, not only the municipal council but the public of Calicut also passed resolutions requesting Government to allow the municipality to work the scheme. When the municipality found that in spite of its own protest and the protest of the public, the Government had given their consent to the assignment of the licence to the new company, it passed the following resolution:—

‘This council has read with indignation and surprise the Government Order, dated 12th instant, communicated to the Chairman permitting the assignment of the Calicut electric licence to the West Coast Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, ignoring the repeated requests of the Council, for the said licence as well as the protest of the council against the proposed assignment.

‘In view of the utterly unjustifiable and inexplicable conduct of the Madras Government in refusing the repeated requests of this council for the grant of the licence and in permitting the assignment of the licence liable to have been revoked long ago, this council resolves not to accept any electric supply from the said West Coast Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

‘This council urges citizens and ratepayers of Calicut to safeguard the prestige and interests of the Calicut Municipal Council by taking proper action in this matter.’

“I also understand that the municipality has been collecting some rates from the people on account of lighting, thinking that it would be in a position to fulfil its obligation in this matter by some arrangement with the first licensee; but that licensee has not been able to carry out the conditions of the licence, and the municipality itself has thus not been able to fulfil its obligations to the citizens. In view of these protests both from the municipal council and the public, I should like to know from the Government whether they still persist in leaving affairs to continue in the same state, as they have done all these seven years and to allow another experiment to be tried by the new assignee. I understand that, whatever arrangement for the supply of electricity there was originally, it has broken down about a week or two ago. I would therefore request the Hon. the Law Member to reconsider the requests of the municipality and the public of Calicut, that the municipality itself should be permitted to work the scheme.

“There is only one other matter which I should like to refer to. Yesterday in answer to a question put by Mr. P. M. Thangal, as to—

‘whether it has ever been under the consideration of the Government to work up a hydro-electric scheme in Vayittiri for Malabar and whether any investigation was made in this direction’

the Government replied that some

‘reconnaissance survey of two schemes in the Wynad was made.’

In answer to a supplementary question, the Hon. the Law Member categorically stated that the investigation will not be pursued.”

21st March 1934]

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I said 'immediately.'"

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"The word 'immediately' will mean anything particularly when it is used by the Government. I therefore request the Government to investigate the matter as quickly as possible and see whether anything would come out of it."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I should like to join my hon. Friend from Coimbatore in urging upon the Government the necessity for reducing the rate at which they supply electric energy to Coimbatore and other places out of the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme. As already pointed out by Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar, the other means of producing power, viz., liquid fuel and firewood, have gone down in price considerably. I believe the Hon. the Law Member must be aware of the fact that liquid fuel which was selling about two years ago at the rate of about Rs. 90 a ton has now gone down to Rs. 60. When these commodities which are the main competitors with electric power have gone down in price, is it not reasonable that the Government should also reduce the rate at which they supply electric energy? It may be argued by the Government that they have got to look out for a certain return on the amount they have invested over the scheme. It is but right that they should do so, and I am in agreement there. But I ask whether the Government should not urge upon the Government of India from whom they have borrowed large sums of money for carrying out these works for the reduction of the rate of interest at which they have lent the amount? On more than one occasion in this House, in connexion with the discussions on the Cauvery-Mettur Project, a suggestion was made to the Government that they should urge upon the Government of India this point of view. I request the Hon. the Law Member to take that hint in regard to the loan taken for the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme also and urge on them the necessity for the reduction of their rate of interest. If the rate of interest is reduced, the Government can very easily pass that on to the consumer, by reducing the rate per unit which they are at present charging.

"Sir, encomiums have been showered on the Hon. the Law Member for the way in which the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme has been expedited. I am one with other hon. Members in saying that the Hon. the Law Member and the Chief Engineer for Electricity ought to be congratulated for finishing the scheme within the estimated period; but I cannot congratulate the Hon. the Law Member for the scheme itself. For, it must be admitted on all hands that this scheme was inaugurated during the time of his predecessor, I mean, the Hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, and therefore no great credit can be taken by the present Law Member for it. I should have however congratulated him if, during the years he has been in office, he had undertaken any one of the several other hydro-electric schemes, on the investigation of which the Government have been spending large sums of money

[Mr. V. T. Arasu]

[21st March 1934]

from time to time. I find from the reports that the Government have conducted an investigation into the Periyar Hydro-Electric scheme. I also understand that they have spent a sum of about Rs. 14,000, besides the cost of extra establishment set up for the purpose. In spite of that expenditure that they have incurred, I doubt whether they have published any report as to what action they propose to take in the matter, or whether they have any idea at all of undertaking that scheme. There is another scheme called the Kolar scheme on the investigation of which also they have spent about Rs. 42,000; but what has become of that scheme, I do not know. Members of this House ought to be taken into confidence by the Government and should be provided with copies of reports submitted by the Special Officers appointed for investigating these schemes. There is a third scheme called the Cambar scheme for which also a special staff has been appointed by the Government. These are some of the important schemes which the Hon. the Law Member could very well have taken on hand and carried through during his time. It is really unfortunate that nothing has been done in this direction. I find from the Budget Estimates for the year 1934-35 that the Government propose to appoint an additional staff for the Electricity department; and for that purpose, a sum of Rs. 37,000 has been provided. But information is lacking as to what the nature of the additional staff is. Even from the papers circulated to the Members of the Finance Committee I am unable to understand the nature of the additional staff required. I wish the Hon. the Law Member would throw some light on this point.

“Hon. Members who preceded me have urged upon the Government the necessity for extending the supply of electricity to their respective districts. I should in my turn like to ask the Government whether they have any idea of supplying cheap electric power from the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme or any other scheme, to the Madras City and the neighbouring district of Chingleput. I remember some years ago having read some reports of the Government in which it was stated that they would be in a position to supply electricity to the Madras City from the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme. I wonder what has happened in the meanwhile to make it impossible. I wish the Hon. the Law Member would give us some idea on this occasion as to whether the Madras City can ever hope to get electricity at a cheaper cost than at present, from out of the energy generated at the Pykara works, or any other scheme.”

* MR. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I believe that the area to be served by the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme has been increased from time to time. Towns and districts which were not included in the original survey of the scheme have now been included in it; and I want to know whether the district of North Arcot and important towns in that district will ever get a supply from Pykara, under the latest survey. There is also a new scheme called the Periyar scheme in regard to which it is said that an exhaustive survey has been made and a line is proposed to be laid between Mettur

21st March 1934] [Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar]

and Madras. I want to know whether from any of these two schemes, it will be possible for the important towns in North Arcot to get their electric supply.

“With regard to the question of the Government granting licences to Electric Supply Corporations, I believe certain conditions are stipulated when granting licences; and one of those conditions I believe is with regard to the rate at which the energy is to be supplied to consumers, i.e., the maximum rate. I want to know what the maximum rate is and whether that rate will vary from Corporation to Corporation, or whether it is a flat maximum rate for all electric supply corporations. There is a Corporation in Vellore town which charges at the rate of annas $6\frac{1}{2}$ per unit, while in Madras, as hon. Members are aware, the rate is annas 4. It was recently reduced from annas 5, owing to the cheapness of materials. I would therefore request the Government to examine whether the rate now charged in Vellore town is not very exorbitant and whether the Government cannot take any initiative in drawing the attention of the Electric Supply Corporation at Vellore to have the present rate reduced.”

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—“Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I am glad to see that the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme is almost completed. When this scheme was about to be started, there was a good deal of discussion in this Council and outside as to whether the development of hydro-electric energy was to be in the hands of private people or of the Government; I was one of those—and I am yet of that view—who felt that development of hydro-electric schemes should not be left to private enterprise and that Government ought to take the entire responsibility for the development of hydro-electric energy. One of the reasons why I support that view is that the power out of which energy is developed is the property of the State and it is only proper that whatever profit that one may be able to make by utilization of the flow of water of great rivers ought to benefit the State and not a private concern. Moreover, Sir, we find that the sources of revenue of the State are not very fluid in this Presidency; the Land revenue is practically stationary and the Excise revenue is going down and ought to and probably other sources of revenue also will dwindle. The Government can make up the fall in revenue by taking up the development of electric energy which may prove remunerative. On these considerations, Sir, I thought that it was absolutely necessary that the Government alone should have the monopoly of developing hydro-electric energy. I am glad the view I held was accepted by the Government. But, I must say that the Government do not seem to follow any intelligible principle with regard to making the development of hydro-electric energy a remunerative concern. I do not know what the principle of the Government is in regard to the imposition of rates for the supply of energy to private people. Is it the clamour of the people? The Government ought not so lightly yield to the demand of people of various districts for lowering of the rates. What I say is that the Government should have some intelligible principle in the matter

12-15
p.m.

[Mr. K. Koti Reddi]

[21st March 1934]

of imposing rates for the supply of energy. The sole test for the rate ought to be the test which a private man will impose, i.e., the utility of the electric energy for the consuming public, apart from the cost of production of the electric energy. Consideration should be given to the rate a particular consumer will be willing to pay which will ultimately depend on what it was worth while for him to pay. It is only then that this can become a source of revenue to the Government. I hope that the Government is following the principle and, if they are not following, I should like to know why they have not followed it.

“Coming to the needs of my district, I also clamour for a share of the energy to my district. My hon. Friend, Mr. Manikkavelu Nayakar, wanted the Government to supply energy either from Pykara scheme or the Periyar scheme to North Arcot district. North Arcot district being near to my district, I do not see why, if a supply is to be made to North Arcot district, it will not be possible to extend it to my district. My complaint against the Government is that they have not investigated into the possibility of development of hydro-electric energy in the Ceded districts. I once suggested the possibility of generating electricity on the Kistna river on the border of Guntur and Kurnool districts; and I do not know if any attention was paid to my suggestion. When I found that with a flow of not more than 20 feet, the amount of electricity generated in the Ganges Canal scheme is so much, my hopes were naturally raised that it is possible even in the Ceded districts to develop this source of energy in some rivers. I want to request the Hon. the Law Member to induce his Colleague, the Hon. the Revenue Member, to take up the Tungabhadra project and other big schemes. Just as it was possible in the case of the Mettur project to generate electricity in addition to its being an irrigation scheme, the Tungabhadra project also, if started, may be a source of irrigation as well as a source for the supply of electricity. Unhappily, I find that the attention of the Government in the development of electric energy is confined to water sources. Why should they not try other sources and supply electricity to the people, particularly to poor ryots for agricultural purposes. I fail to understand how a big scheme alone could benefit the citizen. Smaller schemes also ought to be considered and taken up. The utilization of electric energy by agriculturists will very much improve agriculture. In the matter of lifting water from wells, etc., it will save a lot of expense for the ryot. The Government should take up small schemes and try to supply electricity for cottage industry. The Government do not seem to have bestowed any attention on this matter and I hope they will bear this in mind and at least investigate the possibility of developing electric power from other sources of mechanical energy with a view to supply energy to cottage industries, for agricultural purposes and irrigation.

“The present is the opportune time for the taking up of schemes, big or small. The Government can get money at a very cheap rate of

21st March 1934]

[Mr. K. Koti Reddi]

interest and if instead of depending upon the Government of India, they float a loan themselves, I am absolutely certain they can get it, say, at 2 or 2½ per cent. This is really the time for embarking on big schemes of a remunerative nature. The question of unemployment will be solved also to a certain extent. The Government are now paying very high salaries to officials and especially in departments which are of a commercial nature the pay at present obtaining should be so cut as to bring it into level with what a private owner would pay for them. If the pay is brought down to the level which a private man will usually pay, I am certain that the maintenance charges of many of these schemes will come very low and a number of schemes which the Government have abandoned or may abandon as unremunerative will prove to be remunerative. This is a direction in which I want the Government to investigate. Intelligent young men are prepared to accept jobs at a reasonably low rate of salaries. As such I do not know why the Government should continue to pay high rates of pay for their officers in a department like the Electricity department which ought to be worked on commercial lines.

“ There is one other point on which I want to say a few words. It may not be entirely the concern of the Hon. the Law Member; but he is concerned in it. If development of electricity is really a remunerative concern, Government ought not to spend any money out of revenue balances. Some time ago it happened that money was actually spent out of current revenues. I personally do not for this purpose distinguish between actual revenue and revenue balances. What I say is these schemes should be started from borrowed capital and if they are really remunerative they should be able to pay interest from out of the income. There are other departments for which money from the revenue balances may be utilized; for instance, the Education department. Suppose under the Education department, a building is to be constructed; it is not a remunerative concern. Other departments need not be starved for the purpose of finding money for the remunerative schemes; and both could have money, the electric concern being started on borrowed capital and the buildings being constructed from the balances. I would request the Hon. the Law Member not to spend money from the revenue balances on capital expenditure on electricity; but to borrow money so that money out of the revenue balances could be spent for unremunerative but necessary purposes.

“ Sir, I find from the report that in Bellary a whole cinema was about to be set on fire; and it has been attributed to the habit of smoking by the Chief Operator. I hope the Government will make a rule to the effect that smoking by those engaged in operating cinemas is prohibited.

“ Before I close, I appeal to the Hon. Member to show, before he lays down his office, some sympathy for the Ceded districts by at least carrying out some investigations into the possibility of developing hydro-electric or other electric schemes in the Ceded districts.”

[21st March 1934]

12-30
p.m.

Mr. DANIEL THOMAS :—“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, in our country there are two sets of people, those who go forward and those who go back. For instance, there are certain people in our country who want to go back to certain long past golden age, the land of self-contained village communities, the land free from the incubus of modern civilization in the shape of motor cars, railways, aeroplanes, steamers and so on; but history has a knack of going forward without regard to the views of individual persons and classes of people.

(At this stage, the Hon. the President occupied the Chair.) “ Sir, India is fast becoming an industrial country and it is too late in the day to set back the hand of the clock and I am glad that Government have recognized the important part that the supply of electricity would play in the industrial expansion of the country and have initiated and brought to fruition the hydro-electric scheme at Pykara. But, Sir, if India is to take its proper place as an industrial country, it is not sufficient if schemes are started and worked only in particular areas. Throughout the length and breadth of the country electric supply must be made available for industrial and other concerns. Naturally in connexion with such schemes for industrial expansion by the supply of electrical energy, those places and those areas which have natural facilities for the development of hydro-electric schemes should come in for preferential treatment. There can be no question that in this respect Tinnevely is most advantageously situated and in Papanasam, for instance, we have a water-bath which can become, under proper guidance and development, a vast power-house for the whole of South India. Sir, this hydro-electric scheme in Papanasam has been, I believe, under the consideration of the Government for several years past, but Sir, the scheme is being considered and considered and it seems it is a case of longstanding consideration, but as yet nothing has emanated out of all this long and deep consideration of the Government of Madras. I do not know, Sir, what exactly stands in the way of starting this hydro-electric scheme. After all it is a scheme which will pay and it is a scheme which if initiated, developed and worked, is bound to pay its way. It has also been pointed out to the Government that in the vicinity of Papanasam itself, there is scope for the development of the paper industry. Sir, paper is now an absolute and essential requisite of modern civilization and any effort to develop and increase the supply of indigenous paper supply in our country is deserving of the careful and sympathetic consideration of the Government. Sir, I understand from responsible officials that Papanasam is very advantageously situated in this respect, that at least there is a class or variety of bamboo grown in and round the hills of Papanasam which produce very fine pulp and that if Government would carry on simultaneous schemes of hydro-electric supply and also a paper mill at Papanasam, both the schemes will be abundantly paying and would also be a great boon to the people of South India.

“ Again, Sir, Tinnevely is a very large cotton growing district and in Papanasam itself you have a mill of Harvey's which is considered

21st March 1934]

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

to be one of the largest spinning mills in the world; and besides Papanasam itself there are various mills in Kovilpatti and Tinnevely; and with proper and cheap supply of electric energy, cotton mills are likely to grow in other parts of the district also. I would therefore earnestly request the Government and the Law Member not to shelve the question, not to merely keep it on as a scheme for consideration and investigation—I believe investigation is over—and the time has perhaps come when I think that something tangible and practical should be done by the Hon. the Law Member in this matter of hydro-electric scheme in Tinnevely."

Diwan Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to say a few words on this cut motion with a view to discuss the desirability of reducing the cost of supply of electric energy from Pykara for domestic consumption. Sir, in an agricultural country like Madras, the bulk of electric energy available is consumed only for domestic purposes and not much for industrial purposes. And if it is the wish of Government that electric power should be consumed on a larger scale by the people, it is possible only by reducing the cost of supply for domestic consumption. It is open to Government to adopt thoroughly business like methods in their commercial undertakings, but they must at the same time realize that their undertakings are for the benefit of the people and not for merely making large profits. The rates obtaining in the neighbouring State of Mysore are sufficiently attractive and induce even the villagers to go in for electricity for their daily requirements.

"The conditions obtaining at Pykara are not less favourable than at Sivasamudram. What is wanted is heart and a desire to make electric energy easily available even for the ordinary man. I wish that Government examine this question at their early convenience and see that the rates are reduced."

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Mr. President, Sir, the great progress in electric schemes during the last few years is very creditable to this Province and the name of the Hon. the Law Member will be associated with the progress which has been made and we are all very thankful to him for the great interest he has displayed in pushing forward electric schemes. He has spoken very highly about the benefits of electricity and its usefulness in increasing the amenities of rural areas and I therefore took the opportunity last year of bringing to his notice certain schemes which I thought were desirable in South Kanara, but I am sorry to say that nothing has been done in that direction so far. Probably the difficulties are very great and I have no doubt he will tell us to-day what progress he has made in examining the schemes so far as they affect South Kanara and also Malabar. I would like to point out that in South Kanara there is electricity available only in one place and the cost per unit is very heavy. If the waterfall or rather the water-power that is available close to Mangalore, namely, the Hassamar valley, is utilized, the cost would be greatly reduced. There

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

[21st March 1934]

has been an examination of this scheme for the purpose mainly of finding out whether water from the Hassamar valley could be brought to Mangalore town where the water-supply question is very acute. There is a considerable amount of typhoid in the town and it is, I believe, daily increasing; and my hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, tells me that many of the officers of his firm who go to Mangalore suffer from dysentery, and this he attributes to defective water-supply in the town. I think there is a great deal of truth in that and I trust that early steps will be taken to remedy the state of affairs. I speak about it in this connexion because both the question of water-supply and electric power may be settled together by one and the same scheme. If a tank is built in the Hassamar valley, that water may be used for supplying water to the town and the water-fall might be made useful for the purpose of generating electricity and the cost per unit would be considerably reduced.

“There is also a similar place in Malabar where it is possible to get electricity. It is somewhere in the Western Ghats. My hon. Friend, Mr. Thangal, asked some questions about it also the other day. If that scheme is taken up, it will be possible to supply water not only for improving water-supply in Malabar, but it may also be utilized for the purpose of generating electricity thereby reducing the cost per unit of electricity supplied at Calicut, where it is heavy and has been the subject of complaint. (Mr. W. K. M. Langley: ‘Very heavy.’) I correct my word. The cost is not merely heavy, but very heavy. It is not sufficient if electricity is supplied only to some important towns, but attempts should be made to supply electric power to all the districts and to all rural areas. I have no doubt that in view of the interest which the Hon. the Law Member has displayed in the matter, he will make an earnest attempt and I daresay he has already made an earnest attempt to solve this problem. Now that he is giving up the reins of his office shortly to our great regret, we take the opportunity under every Demand to make a few more requests so that the grant of these requests may be coupled with his regime. I therefore request the Hon. the Law Member who has no doubt the interest of his own district at heart—but he has been impartial and has made every attempt to satisfy other districts—to consider the claims of Malabar and South Kanara and see whether the schemes which have been put forward for the supply of electricity in those two districts are properly examined; and we will all be very glad if something is done for the benefit of these two districts.”

* Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—“Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas, has so ably dealt with the question and pointed out the necessity for introducing the hydro-electric scheme at Papanasam, that it is needless for me to say anything in detail. Sir, this question has been under the consideration of the Government for very many years and when the Hon. the Law Member visited Tinnevely and representations were made to him—of course he may not remember it now—at the time when he received an address from the Municipal Council of

21st March 1934]

[Mr. M. Devadasan]

Tinnevely his attention was drawn to the desirability of the scheme being considered and pushed through, but it has been neglected. Though it is needless for me to say anything at present, yet I think it is my duty to say something about the scheme. So far as the people of Tinnevely are concerned, they have got a great grievance against the Government inasmuch as this question has not been tackled till now. It is said 'out of sight, is out of mind' and this is particularly applicable to the relation of Government with Tinnevely, for Tinnevely being far away from the headquarters, it has not been cared for. Probably if the people of Tinnevely are able to urge upon the Government the necessity of introducing this scheme in season and out of season, Government would be willing to introduce it. Sir, Papanasam has got great potentialities and, if the scheme is completed it is sure to be of great benefit. I find from the report that the power is supplied from Pykara even to places in Cochin, which is close to Malabar, not far away from the birth-place of the Hon. the Law Member. Though Tinnevely, Madura and other places are very near they have no chance of getting electricity. Even now schemes for the three municipal towns in Tinnevely are almost completed and the line will be opened very soon in these municipalities and if the Papanasam scheme is introduced, then not only the municipal towns of Palamcottah, Tinnevely and Tuticorin, but also several other villages might take advantage of the scheme; and the municipal towns might borrow power from the scheme as Trichinopoly-Srirangam Municipality Electric Supply Company are doing now.

"I will have to point out to the Government that Tinnevely has received a treatment which can be characterized as step-motherly treatment. Government have been careful enough to investigate so many schemes. Mr. Koti Reddi referred to the Pykara scheme, the Mettur Electric scheme and a number of other schemes that are under investigation of the Government. So far as Tinnevely is concerned, they have not cared to investigate the possibility of any scheme. In his statement made year before last the Hon. the Law Member said that the financial conditions did not permit the investigation of the hydro-electric scheme at Papanasam. Even now he might say that finances do not permit the Government to investigate it. Before the Hon. the Law Member lays down his office, I request him to call for a report and investigate it.

12-45
p.m.

"Before concluding I may say one word. Mr. Arasu said that the Hon. the Law Member did not deserve any congratulation on the hydro-electric scheme. He said further that it was Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar that deserved the congratulation. I should say that if Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar deserved the congratulation for initiation of the scheme then Sir M. Krishnan Nayar deserves congratulation for completion of the scheme. The representatives of other districts also complain that their districts have not been well attended to in this matter. I hope the scheme will be considered in full and the necessary attention will be paid to the neglected districts."

[21st March 1934]

* Mr. G. LAKSHMANA REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I would request the Hon. the Law Member to investigate the possibility of introducing electricity in the district of Anantapur from the neighbouring State of Mysore. There is a large quantity of electricity available in Mysore. The Hindupur Municipality is now having electricity out of plant purchased by it. But the municipality is now of opinion that if they get electricity from the Mysore State it will be cheap. Places like Doddaballapur very near Hindupur are getting electricity from the Mysore State. I think Government should negotiate with the Mysore State and see whether they can get electricity cheaper not only for Hindupur but also to Anantapur and other big places in the district. It is quite possible to have electricity cheaper if it can be got from Sivasamudram in the Mysore State. I would suggest the Government would make an early move in the matter."

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, my friends from Coimbatore, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar who moved this cut motion and Mr. Ratnasabhapatil Mudaliyar, referred to several aspects of the supply of electric energy. I may say, Sir, that my friends coming from Coimbatore know more about the use of the electric current than probably members coming from other districts. In the first place they are very near the source of supply, viz., Pykara, and so far as the use of the current is concerned, the people in the Coimbatore district use electric current generated at Pykara to a very much larger extent than the people in the other parts of the Presidency. And naturally they are well acquainted with the details relating to the rates and other matters about the current. My friends stated that the supply of electric energy is a source of profit to the Government. They are right. My friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, referred to his statement of last year, that the rate charged by Government for agricultural purposes should be reduced and he stated that he did not know whether effect was given by the Government to his recommendation made last year. Mr. Ratnasabhapatil Mudaliyar has answered my friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, when he stated that the rates had been reduced; only my friend, Mr. Ratnasabhapatil Mudaliyar, is not content with the reduction which Government have already made, and he wants Government to reduce the rates still further. I may tell my friend that since 1931 the Chief Engineer for Electricity has gone into the rates that may be charged three times. Government do not want exorbitant profits, but at the same time they want a reasonable rate of interest on the tax-payers' money which they have invested on these projects to the extent of a crore and twenty lakhs. The original estimate was for one crore and thirty and odd lakhs. Consistent with that desire, Government are willing to reduce the rates as far as possible and I shall remember my friend's suggestion that the rates should be still further reduced.

"Then I shall come, before I go to other facts, to what has taken place in Calicut. My friend, Mr. Pocker, my friend, Mr. Raman Menon, and some other friends have referred to it. Of all those

21st March 1934]

[Sir M. Krishnan Nayar]

gentlemen who spoke on this cut motion, Mr. Raman Menon alone comes from Calicut. My friend, Mr. Pocker, though he belongs to the district of Malabar, is a permanent resident of Madras. Mr. Raman Menon has stated that the municipality has mishandled the situation. 'Mishandled' is his word. My friend is perfectly right when he says that, and the municipality has more than mishandled it. The facts are these. Originally, licence for generating and distributing electric current to the town of Calicut was granted to Mr. K. C. Menon. That was in 1927. One of the provisions in that licence states that the municipality is at liberty to purchase the licensee's right after the expiry of fifty years after the grant of that licence, that is, after the expiry of 50 years from 1927. It may be noted that the municipality which knew about the grant of this licence did not raise any protest against or objection to this period of 50 years which was fixed in the original licence. Then, after this licence was granted on the usual conditions that find a place in the electric licences, Mr. K. C. Menon borrowed two lakhs from a bank known as the Chalapuram Bank. The Government was therefore satisfied that he was in a position to carry on the work and as a matter of fact, within the stipulated time, he completed the compulsory works, and before the expiry of the time fixed for it, he began to distribute energy to the people of Calicut. Subsequently, complaints reached Government repeatedly. It was stated that he was not in a position to discharge his financial obligations and it was also stated that the supply of energy within the Calicut Municipality was not efficient. When the Government received these complaints, Government naturally made enquiries. The Government were satisfied that everything was not in a satisfactory condition, and the Government sent repeated instructions and orders to the licensee to the effect that, if he did not attend to these things, the licence would be cancelled. Mr. Pocker referred lightheartedly to the revocation of the licence granted to Mr. Menon. In fact, revocation is not an easy matter. It is attended by all sorts of difficulties, and, so far as I can remember, there is not a single instance—I speak subject to correction—of this Government having revoked a licence once granted. Mr. Mears, a recognized authority on the question of electricity, says in his standard book that revocation should be resorted to only with extreme caution. What will be the consequence if this licence that was granted to Mr. K. C. Menon be revoked? There are the interests of the small consumers of electricity who use it for fans and lamps. There is the interest of the bigger consumers like factories and ultimately there is the interest of the people who have invested money on this concern. As I have already submitted, Mr. K. C. Menon originally borrowed a sum of 2 lakhs from the Chalapuram Bank which came subsequently into difficulties and there are many persons, orphans and widows, who have invested money in the Chalapuram Bank, whose money has been utilized for this purpose. The Government naturally took into consideration the anxiety of all these persons and ultimately sent a notice in December 1933 to Mr. Menon asking him to show cause before the 5th of January why the revocation of licence should not be

[Sir M. Krishnan Nayar]

[21st March 1934]

made. With reference to the claim of the municipality, I may state this. Apart from the expiry of 50 years to which I referred at the commencement, the only way in which the municipality can acquire this concern is by means of private negotiations with and purchase from the licensee, Mr. Menon, and if by means of private negotiations the municipality and Mr. Menon come to an arrangement, the Government would sanction it. But Government have no right whatever to compel Mr. Menon to assign his right to any person, whether it is municipality or any other person. Once the licence is revoked by Government, the municipality has the first of refusal and not before. But as I submitted, revocation or cancellation of licence is not a thing that could be done lightheartedly. The interests of many persons have to be taken into consideration and in addition there are other important circumstances. What does the revocation of a licence mean? It means that as soon as the licence is revoked, supply of current comes to a standstill. The licensee is prohibited after revocation from supplying electricity, whether for the purpose of manufacture or lighting. The whole thing comes to a standstill. There must be persons who are competent financially, to carry on this undertaking and in addition to that, technically qualified to work it. It is only when there are persons who satisfy these two conditions and who are ready to take up the work the Government will be justified in cancelling a licence. And what is the position here? One of the Collectors in Malabar said that if the licence was revoked and the same was granted to the municipality, it would mismanage it. The Government went into all these circumstances and gave notice to the licensee to show cause why his licence should not be revoked before the 5th of January this year. The licensee, Mr. K. C. Menon, and the Calicut Supply Corporation then together applied to the Government, stating that they had come to an arrangement and that Mr. Menon would sell the concern to the Corporation and asking Government to give their consent to the transfer. On receipt of this application, the Government went into all the facts carefully and they found that the Calicut Supply Corporation consisted of persons who were financially capable of finding the necessary amount and who also possessed the required technical knowledge to carry on the work. (A voice: 'Why not give an opportunity to the municipality?') That is the mistake the municipality is making. The municipality has no right to dictate to the Government either to revoke a licence or not to grant it to a particular person. This municipality, after the assignment was made, passed resolutions which the Government call intemperately worded, but which the Collector called impertinently worded. As I was saying, before agreeing to this assignment, the Government made themselves sure of the financial and technical qualifications of the Corporation. The Government also found from a report that in addition to the purchase money a sum of Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 was necessary for carrying on this work. Immediately after the assignment, it was reported to Government that one of the engines ceased to work, with the result that my hon. Friend complained that the town was not getting energy. The present position is

1 p.m.

21st March 1934] [Sir M. Krishnan Nayar]

that, when the engine broke down, the Corporation sent a competent engineer to Calicut to make repairs, and made arrangements for distribution of energy to certain portions of the town. It is now understood that the repairs to the main plant have been completed and that the regular supply has commenced on the 17th instant. Probably my hon. Friends, Messrs. Raman Menon and Pocker, are not in possession of this information. The Government have asked the Corporation to make a complete and detailed report on the point."

Mr. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—"May I say that, when I was in my office in Calicut on the 17th morning, there was no current available?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Probably my hon. Friend left Calicut before noon and the supply was made available in the evening after he left Calicut. I must also mention here that, before the Government sanctioned the transfer to this Corporation, they consulted their Chief Engineer for Electricity, and they stipulated that the Corporation should carry out the necessary works before 15th April 1934 and that extensions and improvements to the generating plant and the distributing system should be made to the satisfaction of the Chief Engineer for Electricity and that this body should be prepared to invest such amount over and above the purchase price as the Chief Engineer might consider necessary. It was further laid down that before 15th April 1934 the company should liquidate all the debts incurred by the licensee in respect of the undertaking in a thoroughly satisfactory manner and that the authorized capital of the company should not exceed 5 lakhs without the approval of the Government.

"With regard to the rate charged per unit, it was suggested that it should be reduced. The company has undertaken to do so."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"What will be the rate?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The maximum has been fixed in the licence and, as the hon. Member himself stated, the present rate, I believe, is 8 annas per unit. The company is likely to reduce it.

"Then I was asked to say when the power from Pykara will reach Calicut. I may say for the information of the House that the idea of the Government is to take it to Calicut in 1936-37. Any person who is in possession of the plants generating electricity now, whether it be the Corporation which has purchased the licence or whether it be the municipality, will have to scrap them and take energy in bulk from the Government source after 1936-37. There is this aspect also to be taken into consideration. All that the Government had to do in this matter was to give their sanction to this assignment under section 9 (2) of the Electricity Act. These, in brief, are the circumstances under which the Government gave their sanction to the purchase of this right by this company from Mr. K. C. Menon, the original licensee."

[21st March 1934]

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—" May I ask one question? Did not the Government refuse to grant the licence to the assignee? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Here there is no question of issuing a new licence at all. (A voice: ' There is the law on the subject. ') Yes, the law is there and cannot be altered by any one of us.

" Then, I think Mr. Pocker referred to public opinion in Calicut being in favour of the municipality. I do not know what he means by public opinion. As a matter of fact, if the reports in the newspapers are considered to reflect public opinion, I may say that the majority of the newspapers of the place, whether English or Malayalam, are generally against the municipality and against the attitude of non-co-operation adopted by it. That probably was what was meant by Mr. Raman Menon when he said that the municipality mishandled the question. (B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: ' Is the public opinion, then, in favour of Mr. K. C. Menon? ') It is not in favour of the municipality. They have condemned the action of the municipality. Nobody is in favour of Mr. K. C. Menon. The Government also are not in favour of Mr. K. C. Menon.

" One of my hon. Friends here stated that Government do not utilize the current in their own buildings. I may say that provision has been made in the next year's budget for lighting and fans in buildings owned by Government."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" All over the Presidency? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Only in Coimbatore.

" Then I think that my hon. Friends from Salem referred to the rates charged for electric supply in Salem town. It must be remembered that this licence was given at a time when the supply from Pykara was not available. But the rates were fixed with reference to the rates that would be levied for current from Pykara. Subsequently, after the completion of the Pykara scheme, the rates leviable for Pykara current were revised and it is now found that the Government rates are lower than the rates charged by the licensee for Erode and Salem. So far as Salem is concerned, as a result of the interpellations by Mr. Nachiyappa Gounder, the Government are considering whether legally they have the power of reducing the rates at Salem consistently with reasonable profits for the licensee company.

" My hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, referred to the possible breakdown in the Pykara system. I may tell my hon. Friend in particular, and the House in general, that the Government have taken all precautions against the possibility of a breakdown. In the first place, at the Pykara generating station there is an extra plant which is kept

21st March 1934]

[Sir M. Krishnan Nayar]

as a stand-by. The important transmission lines contain duplicate lines. So that, if one line fails, the other line can be worked. In addition to that, there are breakdown gang coolies who patrol the line always with lorries, so that their services will be available at any time and in any place when and where there is a breakdown. (Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhupati Mudaliyar: 'The lines are on the same tower.') Of course, if the tower itself goes, there is no help for it. But I may tell my hon. Friend that Mysore which introduced electricity before we thought of it has no better arrangement. Then, in the Punjab which possesses a large electric system, they too have no better arrangement. As a matter of fact, the arrangement that we have is similar to that in other parts of the world. In any case, our Chief Engineer has given detailed instructions to his subordinates in regard to these matters. I must now say that he is one of the cleverest experts in electricity in the whole world.

"Mr. President, I shall try to be brief. Mr. Koti Reddi and some others referred to various possible hydro-electric schemes. I may tell Mr. Koti Reddi that in respect of rivers in many districts in the Presidency such as Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Tinnevely, Madura and so on, investigations have been made. All these are not suited for generating power. We have now completed the Pykara and are thinking of introducing the Mettur scheme. The details of this scheme are under preparation by the Chief Engineer, and the idea of the Government is, if finances permit, after the completion of the Mettur Project, to take up the Periyar scheme and complete that also. So far as the Papanasam scheme is concerned, I think that Messrs. Daniel Thomas, Devadasan and some others referred to it and said that the Government have been considering this matter so long that one is at a loss to know when this consideration would be over. As a matter of fact, the consideration of this scheme was over long ago; the scheme will cost about 1 crore and 30 lakhs and there is no possibility of generating electricity on a commercial scale unless there are some industrialists who will be prepared to take the bulk of the power generated there. In fact, four or five years ago a company called Walker & Co. had some idea of starting mills there for the manufacture of paper, and proposed to take the bulk of the power generated there. But while negotiations were going on between them and the Government, the company went into liquidation. So I may say to my friends that Government are not considering this scheme now.

1-15
p.m.

"Sir, I think my time is up and I shall finish in a few minutes. (Mr. V. T. Arasu: 'We want some details about Mettur.') Government are awaiting the detailed report of the Chief Engineer, who is now actually engaged in that work. Mr. Manikkavelu Nayakar wanted the towns in the North Arcot district to be supplied with electric power. I may tell him that until the Mettur and Periyar schemes are completed, the Pykara power will not be available in the North Arcot district.

[Sir M. Krishnan Nayar] [21st March 1934]

“ For want of time, I am sorry that I am unable to reply to the other criticisms. But I may say this: those suggestions will be borne in mind by Government, and as far as possible, effect will be given to them.”

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried, and the Grant was made.

DEMAND XVII—EDUCATION—TRANSFERRED.

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“ Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move—

‘ that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rupees 1,80,42,500 under Demand XVII—Education—Transferred.’ ”

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I move that cut motion 714 be taken up instead of cut motion 707, because both of them are to be moved by Mr. Sreshta. Further under the former the general policy of Government with regard to Education may be discussed, so that every hon. Member may get an opportunity to speak. Last year also we took for the subject of Connemara Library alone about one and a half hours or so. And so if we are to discuss it separately now also, I am afraid several Members may not get an opportunity to speak at all.”

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—“ Sir, it is desirable that the general policy is discussed, and that time is not frittered away with reference to small subjects, which are really not very important.”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“ I wish to bring to your notice, Sir, that even last year the cut motions were arranged in a similar order, and Mr. Sreshta was allowed to move his cut motion, and it was finished in a few minutes.”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ Even now he can be allowed to move his motion. But I wish to know whether Government have any objection to the motion of Mr. Krishnayya Choudari.”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“ Not that I object, Sir, but I put it only as a suggestion.”

Mr. Krishnayya Choudari's proposal was agreed to and cut motion No. 714 was taken up.

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

‘ to reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for Grants to Universities —Madras University—by Rs. 100 ’

to discuss the education policy of the Government. The Education Department, it must be admitted, has done excellent work. (Voices from both sides of the House: ‘ Hear, hear.’) And if there are still any drawbacks I do not think it can be placed at the door of any official or Minister. I wish to say this straightaway, because I do not wish that any remarks that I am going to make should be misunderstood.

21st March 1934]

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

So far as education expenditure is concerned, it has been increasing every year, and there is a feeling in the country that the advantages to the country have not increased proportionately to the expenditure spent under this head. I shall first deal with higher education. There is no doubt that the amount now spent on higher education, especially on Arts, is disproportionate to the needs of the country. It has been said that the percentage of persons who go from lower education to higher education is larger in India than elsewhere. This state of things gives rise to a large amount of educated unemployment. There are various remedies suggested to meet this evil, and I wish to address myself to one such remedy, and it is this. Higher education should no longer be considered a passport for employment in Government service. I suggest that competitive examination, specially designed for the purpose should be held for admission into various services, so that persons at an early date may decide as to what course they should choose. If that is done young men wanting to enter Government service will stop with a certain examination and the parents will be saved considerable expenditure, as then they can resist the desire for higher education. This matter requires serious consideration, and the Hon. Education Minister will place us in a deep debt of gratitude, if he tackles this question of higher education not being regarded as a passport for service, but as a preliminary step for research and culture.

“Then, Sir, I come to the question of elementary education. This question has been agitating the public very much recently. We want that elementary education should be made compulsory, and that it should be made as extensive as possible. With this object in view, Government have been taking various steps, and the report of Mr. Champion is a great step in this direction. It is certainly a great step forward, and the report is a valuable one which requires very careful consideration to be appreciated. At the same time that report has not received the fullest possible attention of the various sections of the public who are affected by that scheme. The report was made more or less an official document, and it was forwarded to the various local bodies for their scrutiny and remarks; but the public at large were, till quite recently, ignorant of what was taking place. I should like to know how many Members of this Council have read this report. I believe there was a run for the Champion Report quite recently, when the Government scheme was published in the papers. Until then, I believe, no Member of the Council took any interest in that report. At least that is the experience of myself and several others. When the taluk boards and the local bodies took no action on the report, Government were alarmed, and thought that that scheme would never materialize, and so they issued orders to District Educational Officers to take up that matter themselves and make reports in accordance with the Champion scheme, as modified by Government. These orders were published in the papers, and it was noticed that in certain respects the Government scheme was not so favourable as the Champion scheme to several sections. Immediately these sections took alarm, and there is any

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

[21st March 1934]

amount of discontent among the people, and I believe, the Government scheme is by no means welcomed in the country. The Muslims consider the scheme unfavourable to their interests. The Depressed Classes feel the same thing. Both these communities were treated, I believe, favourably by the Champion Report, for it recommended the setting up of separate sections for these people in the central schools; but Government are not for it. So far as the Catholic community is concerned, which I have the honour to represent in this House along with my friend, Mr. Pannirselvam (Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam: 'Then who represents the Protestant community here?')—I represent both the communities here—I want to point out that this community is very much opposed to the Government scheme, as it stands now. It may be that many modifications may take place before it becomes acceptable to the Catholic community. But at the present moment there is a feeling that the scheme is not favourable to the Catholic community. (Mr. K. P. Raman Menon: 'Please explain how.') My friend, Mr. Raman Menon, asks me to explain. That shows that he has not read the scheme. (Laughter.) For had he read it, he would not have put that question."

At this stage, the House adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Mr. President, as I have said, neither the Champion scheme nor the instructions based upon it which were issued about two or three years ago were read by all the members of the public carefully. But when instructions were published in the papers by the Director of Public Instruction in September or November for the first time the various interests affected studied the questions involved carefully. The documents are very lengthy and cover a large ground. I do not think that those who have read the documents are fully acquainted with the system which is proposed to be introduced. In any case the scheme proposed vests a lot of power in the hands of officials. It is for the officials to decide which aided schools should be included in the scheme and which not and whether or not a school is sufficiently well managed to be deserving of such inclusion. We are not sure whether this power will be properly exercised. There is a considerable amount of feeling that some of the subordinate educational officers may not be quite honest in their action and that many of the managers of the aided schools will fare badly under the new scheme. The scheme proposed is adverse in many ways. First of all I shall put forward the Catholic point of view. The new scheme proposed is opposed to the Catholic point of view in regard both to separate schools and co-education. The Catholic point of view not only in this country but all over the world is that there should be separate schools for Catholics and that Catholic boys should be educated only in a Catholic atmosphere. Whether this is right is not quite relevant, because it is almost part of our faith that we should send our children to Catholic schools, so that they may be educated in a Catholic religious atmosphere.

21st March 1934]

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

It is, therefore, in consonance with the principles of administration that we should be allowed to practise our faith as we think right. Unless we do anything which is against law or morals, I think we should be allowed not only to believe in any faith we choose but to practise it. Therefore I think that if the Catholic community, just like the Muslim community, wants all their children to be educated in the atmosphere of their own religion, this claim ought to be conceded. It will be noticed that almost in every country in the world this principle has been adhered to by Catholics, despite persecution and despite even the fact that full grants are not given to their schools. In England the Catholic children do not go to provided schools but to non-provided schools although they get a smaller grant. This is what the Year Book of Education published in 1932 says:—

“The attitude of the Roman Church to the whole question of religious instruction is well known and need not be enlarged on here. In one word its policy is to provide its own schools for all its children and it can contemplate no “concordat” which would conflict with this policy.”

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—“Does it refer to University education?”

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—“It is with regard to elementary education.

“Sir, therefore it will be seen that it is in accordance with the principles of our religion that we require education to be imparted in a religious atmosphere. As I said, it is not for others to question whether we are right or not, because it is an article of our faith. Further, that point has been examined by me in all the previous Budget speeches, and I cannot add to the arguments which I have already adduced and which the Hon. Minister is well aware of. The feeling was so strong that the hon. Member, Dr. Subbarayan, was convinced, when he was the Minister for Education, that some alteration of the rules was necessary and he was responsible for the Government Order of 1929 which provided that in the case of Catholics, whenever they wanted separate schools, they should be allowed to have them if there were a sufficient number of pupils and there was scope for the school, in addition to an existing one, in the locality. The new scheme implies that no new school should be established unless it is situated far off from an existing school. Under the new rule the principle of Dr. Subbarayan is abrogated. According to the new scheme central schools are to be at a distance of two miles from each other and the junior schools at a distance of three-quarter or one mile from each other. The result will be that what we secured as a result of agitation, viz., the Government Order of 1929, will now be cancelled. We shall moreover be entirely in the hands of officials who will have to decide whether any school should come into existence or not. It is this that makes us fear that we will fare worse under the new scheme. No doubt the new scheme is intended to achieve economy and efficiency. To a great extent the Government may achieve economy because I believe there are a large number of schools which do not deserve to be maintained and they will not be given any aid hereafter. But, on the whole, aided schools

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

[21st March 1934]

maintained by the Catholics are efficient and they are described as such in the report of the Director of Public Instruction. In South Kanara it has been found that Catholic schools are in good condition. Many of the schools which are recommended for being converted into central schools are mission schools. That is a situation which may not occur in other districts. This circumstance may be due to various causes. It may be due to the fact that the District Educational Officer and his subordinates in this district are more sympathetic; but we cannot expect the same thing in all districts. Many Christians of other districts are not for the new scheme as many of their schools will have to be given up. The Christian communities are scattered in small villages and their number will be very small. So it will not be possible to have a school in each village because there will be not 30 in each standard. According to the new scheme there ought to be 30 at least in each standard. What is to happen if there are not 30? These schools will have to be discontinued. What is to happen if there are only say about 15 in each of the fourth and fifth standards and a large number in the lower standards? Various changes may be made in the new scheme. For instance, if a rule is made that it does not matter if the number in each standard is less than 30, then it will go a great way to help the Christians. There are various other amendments which will help them and make them feel that they will not suffer under the new scheme.

"I was so far speaking with reference to the Catholic point of view. But I believe the Protestant point of view is very much the same. I am sure Mr. Appadurai Pillai when he speaks on this question will be able to give some indication with regard to his attitude towards it. But all the same I think they look upon this question from the same standpoint as we do. I hope there are several hon. Members who will probably express similar views. In a matter like this, we, Christians, cannot adopt an attitude which is quite against our faith. But I look at the question from a different standpoint also and ask this House to consider whether the whole of the Province may not suffer on account of this scheme as it stands. There is a very strong agitation against the implications of this scheme by the several sections of the Christian community and I think the Hon. Minister has received several representations. One of the representations has urged him to see how far he can meet the wishes of the sections which are not quite satisfied with the present situation. I quite agree that the Champion scheme endeavours to consider the claims of aided schools: It says:—

'Consolidation, so far as well-conducted aided schools are concerned must be with the full and free agreement of the management: and where that agreement is not forthcoming the aided school must be allowed to preserve its identity and to continue as a separate institution.'

"But who is to decide that the schools are well managed? Who is to say that there is agreement? All these are questions which seem to be very simple but in the actual working there is much difficulty. We know that the working of rules is an extremely difficult matter. Much abuse creeps in when a system is being worked. It is for this reason

21st March 1934]

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

that we should make sure of everything before we consent to accept a new scheme.

“ Another point, with regard to freedom of action. Suppose we do not go into the scheme, what is to happen? Are we to be penalised? Somewhere in the report there is a statement to the effect that new schools which are to be established should be established in such a way as not to interfere with the existing schools. For instance, supposing Christians of any village have obtained necessary funds for putting up a building and they want to start a school, their request may be met by the objection that already there is a central school in the neighbourhood. This is one of the difficulties which we want to clear up. Therefore I think the case is strong for the appointment of a committee to go into the whole question and to see how far the various sections of the people are affected. I believe the Muslim community also has got difficulties in accepting the scheme; the Depressed Classes members also have got difficulties. Personally I know of a particular taluk board president who considers that the scheme is not acceptable. What I find is if one community has the best school in any area, other communities are dissatisfied, because all their children will have to go to the school maintained by that community.

“ Another point I wish to mention relates to the central schools. If a central school is to be established, how is religious education to be imparted? Suppose our school is made the central school, are we to be allowed to impart religious education, are we to have our prayers and are we to have religious classes? Hindu schools and Muslim schools would want to have similar religious teaching classes and prayers in their central schools. If Christian boys have to go to these schools, their parents would object. Similarly non-Christians may object to go to Christian central schools. Then there will be deadlock. All these matters must be carefully considered having regard to the conditions in this Presidency. I do not know whether it is not desirable to have separate schools without taking away any of the existing vested rights. But in all these matters further examination is necessary; I therefore request that a committee might be appointed in which every vested interest will be represented, to go into the whole question, to examine all the schemes which have been put forward, to see whether the schemes work any hardship and whether any modifications in the schemes may be accepted.

“ I would also suggest that all schemes which have come to the office of the Director of Public Instruction may be printed. Now I find a few copies are made and sent to a few bodies. That is not sufficient. With regard to South Kanara, with great difficulty I was able to find what the scheme was. Therefore there is the necessity to print a scheme as soon as it comes to the Director's office, so that everybody who wants to study the question may be able to do so. I think it is desirable that a committee including representatives of all the interests affected should be appointed to go into the whole question carefully. It may be a

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

[21st March 1934]

little expensive to have this committee. But I am afraid that this expense cannot be avoided. It will be a great mistake to rush through the scheme which is of such importance and of far-reaching nature, without proper consideration by all the persons affected. The fact that the Champion scheme was formulated four years ago is not quite relevant, because that scheme was not then considered by the public. It is being considered at present for the last two or three months. Because the Government are considering that scheme for the last two or three months, the District Educational Officers are taking great deal of pains over the matter and hurrying up everything. In their hurry I do not know whether they have consulted all the persons interested in the matter. I earnestly request the Hon. Minister to consider the question of the appointment of a committee and also of receiving deputations from the sections interested.

“ Then I come to the smaller question, the question of the Connemara Public Library. I have been pressing for some time for the extension of the hours of reading in that Library. I also suggest that that Library should be kept open every day in the week. I find that the University Library is kept open every day in the week. Now I understand that there is a move to the effect that it should be kept open till about 8 or 8-30 p.m. This may involve a little extra expenditure; but with regard to other factors of expenditure, there will not be any increase, e.g., in the cost of the building, in the supervising staff, etc. There will be some extra expenditure by reason of the appointment of two or three extra clerks; but the amount of reading will be more than proportionately increased by this extra privilege. I may point out that it is the practice in England and in most other countries to have Libraries open till late at night. There is no reason why, because of the extra expenditure of a few rupees, the privilege should be denied to the people of the country.

“ I must point out again that the books in the Connemara Public Library are not up-to-date. We have better books in the Legislative Council Library and in the Secretariat Library, than in the Connemara Library. This is not as it should be. I wish again to point out that the Library buildings are not accessible; it is not everybody that has got a motor car. It is a very very difficult job to get to the Connemara Library. It is a very tedious process; there are no buses plying that side. I trust that something will be done to remedy this state of affairs. If accessibility to the Library cannot be made easy by subsidising a motor bus, I am afraid that the other alternative will be more costly. We will have to consider the question of establishing Libraries in the Esplanade and in Triplicane, etc. I would suggest that the less costly method of seeing that the Library is made more accessible may be adopted. I would also point out that the Connemara Library is very uncomfortable. There are no fans; if the hours are extended, it will be easy to have fans in addition to lights. Perhaps some people will say that people in this country are not accustomed to have fans and that the average man ought not to think of fans. It may be also

21st March 1934]

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

said that if there are fans in the Library, undesirable persons would come in not to read, but to enjoy the cool atmosphere. I do not think there is any fear of that. I think it is very necessary in these democratic days and with a democratic Minister for Education, that this additional amenity should be provided in that Library. There are a few other points which I wish to touch upon; but as many other speakers are anxious to speak, I do not wish to take any more time of the House."

Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM spoke in Tamil as follows:—

3 p.m.

"இந்தியாவிற்கு அண்மையில் புதிய சீர்திருத்தம் அளிக்கப்போகிறார்கள். புதிய சீர்திருத்தத்தின் பயனாக இந்தியர்களுக்கு அதிக சுதந்திரம் கொடுக்கப்போகும் இது போழ்தில் இந்தியாவில் மூலாதார கல்வி கற்றவர்கள் நூற்றுக்குப் பத்து பேர்களே உளர். கல்லாதவர் நூற்றுக்கு தொண்ணூற்றாகும். இவ்வாறு மூலாதார கல்வியே பரவவில்லையென்பதை அரசாங்கத்தார் அறிந்து கனம் ஸர் எ. பி. பாத்திரே கல்வியிலாகா மந்திரியாயிருந்தபோது கட்டாயமாகவே மூலாதார கல்வியைப் பரப்புவதற்கு ஓர் சட்டத்தையுண்டாக்கினர். இது வரைக்கும் அந்தச் சட்டம் சரியானபடி அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவரவில்லை. அரசாங்கத்தார் நேராகவோ லோக்கல் போர்டுகள் மூலமாக நடத்திவரும் மூலாதார பாடசாலைகள்போதுமானதாயில்லை. எங்கேயோ சில கணவான்கள் இரக்கத்தோடும் பாடுபட்டு கிராண்டு ஸ்கூல்கள் நடத்திவருகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு கட்டுபடியாகும்படி அரசாங்கத்தார் போதுமான கிராண்டு கொடுப்பதில்லை. சர்க்கார் தாங்களே நடத்தும் பாடசாலைகளில் உபாத்திமார்களுக்கு எலிமெண்டரி லேயர் கிரேடுகளுக்கு 20 ரூபாய்கள் கொடுக்கிறார்கள், ஹையர் கிரேடுக்கு 30 அல்லது 35 கொடுக்கிறார்கள். கிராண்டு ஸ்கூலிலிருக்கும் ஆரம்ப ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு ஆறு ரூபாய்கள் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். திறமாக நடத்தினால் அவர்களுக்கு நூற்றுக்கு நூறு வீதம் உயர்த்திக் கொடுப்பதென்று முறையில் ஆறேழு ஆறு பன்னிரண்டு ரூபாய்கள் கொடுப்பார்கள். அப்போதும் மாணேஜ்மெண்டாருக்குப் பாதிக்கு மேல் கையைப் பிடிக்கும். ஆனால் கடந்த இரண்டு ஆண்டுகளாக பணமுடையால் நூற்றுக்கு நூறு வீதமென்பதைக் குறித்து நூற்றுக்கு ஐம்பது வீதத்துக்கு மேல் கொடுக்கக்கூடாதென கனம் டைரக்டர்வர்கள் உத்தரவு பிறப்பித்தார். அப்படியானால் ஒரு ஆசிரியருக்கு ஆறேழு மூன்று சேர்த்து ஒன்பது ரூபாய்கள் சர்க்கார் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். மிச்சம் மாணேஜ்மெண்டார் கொடுக்க வேண்டியவராகிறார்கள். இதனால் அனந்தம் பாடசாலைகள் ஒழுங்கான முறையில் நடத்த முடியாமல் மூடிவிடும் நிலைகளேற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. கட்டாயக் கல்வியை அமூலில் கொண்டு வருவது போக உள்ளதும் ஒழியு நிலைமையேற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சர்க்கார் பண நெருக்கடியால் எல்லா இலாக்காகனிலும் சிப்பந்திகளுக்கும் சம்பளம் குறைத்தார்கள். ஆனால் தற்போது பண நிலை சரிபட்டுவிட்டதென எல்லாருக்கும் சம்பளக் கட்டுகளை நிவிர்த்தி செய்துவிட்டார்கள். ஆனால் ஏழை சர்க்கார் உதவி பெறும் பாடசாலைகளின் மாணேஜர்களுக்கு இன்னும் நிவிர்த்தியுண்டாகவில்லை. சர்க்கார் மற்ற விஷயங்களில் சிக்கனஞ் செய்வதை விட்டு ஆரம்பப் படிப்பு விஷயத்தில் சிக்கனஞ் செய்வதால் மக்களுடைய கண்ணையே பிடுங்குவதாகிறது. இதனால் ஜனங்களுக்குள் சர்க்கார் மேலிருக்கு நல்லபிப் பிராயம் மாறிவிடுமென்று சொல்லவேண்டியதில்லை. ஆகையால் ஏற்கனவே உயர்தர ஆரம்ப கல்வியைகளுக்கு கொடுத்து வந்தது போல் திறமையாக நடத்திவரும் பாடசாலைகளுக்கு நூற்றுக்கு நூறு வீதம் கொடுத்துவந்ததையே அனுஷ்டானத்தில் கொண்டுவரும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"தற்போது சாம்பியன் திட்டத்தை அரசாங்கத்தார் அமூலில் கொண்டு வர முயல்கின்றார்கள். அப்படி செய்தால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட சிறுவர்கள் இரண்டாவது வகுப்புப் படித்ததோடு நிற்கும்படி நேரிடும். மேல் வகுப்பிற்கு மற்றைய ஜாதி இந்த சிறுவர்களோடு கலந்து படிப்பதற்கு செண்டரல் ஸ்கூலுக்குப் போக வேண்டியவரும். அவ்வாறு கலந்து படிப்பது நல்லதாயினும் கிராமங்களின்

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [21st March 1934]

முதலாளிகளின் மக்களும் தொழிலாளிகளின் மக்களும் கலந்து படிப்பதற்குப் பலவிதமான பலமான இடையூறுகளுண்டாகும். அதனால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களின் கல்வியபிவிருத்திக்கெனும் ஆதலால் சாம்பியன் திட்டம் அமுலுக்கு வரக்கூடாது ; வந்தால் அது தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களைப் பொறுத்தமட்டில் விலக்கி தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு ஏற்கனவே இருந்தது போலிருக்கவேண்டும்.

“கல்வி இலாகாவின் தலைவர் ஆபீஸ் கல்வியை அபிவிருத்திக்காகப் பாடுபடவில்லை. ஆனால் எந்தெந்த வகையில் கல்வியை அழித்து சிக்கனம் செய்து சர்க்காருக்குப் பணம் திருப்பக்கூடுமோ அந்த வேலையைத்தான் அது செய்து வருகிறது. ஆகவே அது சிக்கனம் செய்யும் ஆபீஸ் என்றே கூறவேண்டும். மேலும் டைரெக்டர் ஆபீஸுக்கு ஒரு பேப்ர் போனால் அது விரைவில் முடிவடைவதில்லை. ஒரு வருஷம் கழிந்தாலும் அது அப்படியேதானிருக்கும். உதாரணமாக சென்ற வருஷம் சிதம்பரம் நந்தனார் போர்டிங்கிற்கு ஒரு பையனுக்கு மாதம் ஒரு ரூபாய் வீதம் கிராண்ட் கொடுத்தார்கள். அதுவிய்யமாக இக்கனர்தங்கிய சபையில் கேள்விகேட்டும் கடிதங்களெழுதியும் இன்றைய வரைக்கும் பூர்த்தியாகவில்லை.

“தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு மற்றைய இலாகாவில் போதுமான கல்வி அளிக்கப்படவில்லை யென்பதுணர்ந்தே சர்க்கார் தொழிற்கமிஷனர் இலாகாவை ஏற்படுத்தி அதன் மூலம் பல பாடசாலைகள் வைத்து நடத்தினார்கள். ஆனால் சென்ற இரண்டு ஆண்டுகளாக சுமார் ஐந்தாறு பாடசாலைகளை மூடிவிட்டார்கள். தொழிற்கமிஷனர் இலாகா மூலமும் கல்வியை அபிவிருத்தி செய்ய சர்க்கார் இன்னும் முயலவில்லை. தொழிற்கமிஷனரிடமிருந்து திறமாக நடந்துவந்த பாடசாலைகளை சில ஜில்லாக்களில் தாலுக்கா போர்டாரிடம் ஒப்புவித்துவிட்டார்கள். தற்போது அவைகள் சரியாக கவனிப்பாரின்மையின் அழியுந்தறுவாயிலுள்ளன.

“தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் சொந்த முயற்சியால் ஆங்காங்கு சில பாடசாலைகள் வைத்து நடத்தி வந்தால் அவர்களுக்கு எந்தெந்த வகையில் முட்டுக்கடை போடவேண்டுமோ அவ்வளவும் செய்துவருகிறார்கள். சிதம்பரம் நந்தனார் ஸ்கூல் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்பட்டு தலை யெடுத்துவருகிறது. அதற்குப்போது மானபடி கல்வி இலாகாவில் உதவி கிடைக்கவில்லை. ஸ்கூல் கிராண்டுமே போதுமானதாயில்லை. போர்டிங் கிராண்டுமே போதுமானதாயில்லை. இதுவிய்யமாக இங்குள்ள எல்லா கனம்தங்கிய பிரதிநிதிகள் 10 பேர்களும் கையெழுத்திட்டு சர்க்காருக்கு மிமோராண்டம் அனுப்பினோம். அதுவிய்யமாக யாதொரு முடிவும் இதுவரைக்கும் சர்க்கார் செய்யவில்லை. ஏதேனும் பணம் கேட்டால் அதாவது சொற்ப பணம் கேட்டாலும் கொடுக்க மனம் வருவதில்லை. ஆனால் சர்க்கார் சம்மந்தமான ஒட்டுக்கள் வரும்போது கனம் பொக்கிஷமெம்பர் கனம் ஹோம் மெம்பர் முதலானவர்கள், கண இமையும் கொட்டாமல் எங்கனியே பார்க்கிறார்கள். நாங்கள் அவர்களது தாட்சணயத்துக்காகவே ஒட்டுச்செய்கிறோம். ஆனால் நாங்கள் ஏதேனும் கேட்டால் சர்க்கார் ஒன்றும் செய்யமாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். இதனால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட அங்கத்தினர்கள் அனைவருடைய மனத்திலும் புழுக்கம் உண்டாகியிருக்கிறது. இனியேனும் சர்க்கார் தாராள சிந்தையை உடையவர்களானால் நலமாயிருக்கும். ஆங்காங்குள்ள செஷனல் ஸ்கூல்களை எடுத்துவிட்டார்கள். அதனால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு பெருந்த நஷ்டமே உண்டாகியிருக்கிறது. ட்ரெயினிங் படிப்பவர்களுக்குப் போதுமான ஸ்டைபண்டு கொடுப்பதில்லை. சர்க்கார் கல்வி இலாகாவிற்கு திட்டம் போடுவது குடியால் வரும் பணத்தாலேயே. தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் குடி மூலம் சர்க்காருக்கு வருஷத்தில் ஐந்து கோடி ரூபாய்கள் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். இவ்வளவு பணம் கொடுக்கும் வகுப்பிற்கு கல்விக்காக அதில் ஐந்திலொருபங்கு அல்லது பத்தில் ஒருபங்கேனும் செலவழிக்கவேண்டாமா ? சிந்தித்துப்பார்க்க வேண்டுகிறேன்.

“மற்றைய சமூகங்களுக்கு, சிறுபான்மை வகுப்பிற்கு உயர்தரக்கல்லூரிகள், நடுத்தர கலாசாலைகள் ஏற்படுத்தியுள்ளார்கள். தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு ஒரு நடுத்தர பாடசாலையும் சர்க்கார் ஏற்படுத்தவில்லை. எங்கள் சொந்த

21st March 1934] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

முயற்சியால் நடை பெறும் சிதம்பரம் நந்தனார் உயர்தர மூலாதார பாடசாலை நடுத்தர பாடசாலையாவதற்குத்தத்தளித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. சர்க்கார் ஒரு குருகுல நடுத்தர பாடசாலையாக்கவேண்டிய உதவிகள் செய்யவேண்டுகிறேன்.

“தற்போது சர்க்கார் செலவில் ஒரு அகராதி எழுதப்பட்டுவருகிறது. அதில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களை அதாவது பறையர் முதலானவர்களை சண்டாளர் என்று எழுதியுள்ளார்கள். பறையர், சண்டாளர் என்று இதற்கு முந்திய நிகண்டு, திவாகரம், காவியம், புராணங்கள், ஸ்மிருதிகள் முதலியவற்றில் கூறப்படவில்லை. ஆனால் அகராதியில் கூறப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென சொல்லத்தொடங்கி விட்டனர். அகராதி தற்போதேற்பட்டவை, ஏற்படுபவை. சர்க்காரால் ஏற்படும் அகராதியில் மக்களை மக்கள் தாழ்த்தும் பதங்கள் வராமல் தடுக்கவும் கனம் மந்திரியவர்களை முயற்சியெடுக்கும்படி வேண்டுகிறேன்.”

* Rao Bahadur R. SRINIVASAN:—“Mr. President, Sir, experience for the past fifty years has shown that, except through special agency and separate schools, it is impossible to impart education to the Depressed Classes. Since the Government began to impart education to the Depressed Classes, there have been two opposing elements—the caste Hindus and the Christian Missionaries. In the year 1890 the Government issued an order on very favourable terms, that seven children at least should be admitted into each school, that is, in all Government schools and Government recognized schools. But the caste Hindus declined to teach the Depressed Classes children and the Christian Missionaries also refused admission to the Depressed Class children on the conditions of the Government Order. The Christian Missionaries wanted to take the whole community into their fold. At that time, Sir, batches after batches of children came to me and complained that in the Mission schools, they were refused admission. I took up the matter and brought it to the notice of the Government. On enquiry it was found that even in the City of Madras there was not one Government school anywhere which admitted these children. They were all mostly private schools, i.e., Mission schools. Then the Government asked the municipalities to open schools. Since then, municipalities and local boards have opened many schools. Beyond that, the Government were not able to do anything against these two opposing elements. For over a period of thirty years, the Government have not been able to impart education to the Depressed Classes. Directors of Public Instruction came and Directors of Public Instruction went; but they were all more or less under the influence of the Missionaries. The Depressed Classes were not sitting quiet. During this period they agitated. They opposed the appointment of caste Hindus to higher appointments and to self-government institutions. That agitation went as far as the British Parliament, as a result of which a protector was appointed who is now known as the Labour Commissioner. There has been constant opposition to this by caste Hindus directly and by Christian Missionaries indirectly. (At this stage the Deputy President occupied the Chair.) The Labour Department has done considerable good work during the last ten years; but of late, for want of funds, it has cut short its activities. As Mr. Slater, the last Commissioner of Labour, expressed an opinion somewhere, unless a very large sum of

[Mr. R. Srinivasan]

[21st March 1934]

money is allotted for the amelioration of the condition of the Depressed Classes, it is not possible to work for their betterment. A small sum of Rs. 9 lakhs cannot be of much use. There is no hope of educating the Depressed Classes through the local boards and panchayats and the aided missionary schools. The allotment to the Labour Department has been reduced year by year from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 9 lakhs at present. As I pointed out the other day, an allotment of Rs. 100 lakhs at least should be made out of the Excise revenue for the betterment of these classes; for they are said to be the drinking classes in the whole of this Province. I hope at least Rs. 10 lakhs will be brought forward as a supplementary demand by the Hon. the Finance Member or by our Education Minister who will certainly try to influence him in this matter.

“ Before I sit down, Sir, I should like to say what we Depressed Classes have got from the caste Hindus as a result of the Poona Pact in the matter of education. It cannot be anything more than an alleviation of opposition by the caste Hindus. In a few sentences, I shall state what the Poona Pact is and how far it affects the education and betterment of the Depressed Classes. Yet that remains to be seen. The Poona Pact is a settlement by agreement between the parties, while the Communal Award is a settlement by the decision of Government. His Majesty's Government have all along desired that the communal question should be settled only by mutual agreement, and not by the decision of Government, because any such decision is bound to give rise to charges of partisanship. The Poona Pact has this great merit inasmuch as it relieves the Government of any charge of partnership. Sir, being a settlement by mutual agreement, whatever its defects may be, the responsibility can be legitimately thrown upon those who were responsible for it and cannot be made to rest upon the Government. If the Poona Pact had not been made and as a result of this vow Mahatma Gandhi had died, the caste Hindus would have suffered no greater loss than the loss of a leader. The Depressed Classes would have been held responsible for his death and subjected to persecution and tyranny at the hands of the caste Hindus all over India in the same way as the Jews were persecuted and tyrannised by the Christians all over Europe for the alleged responsibility for the death of Jesus Christ. Well, Sir, thus the Pact may alleviate the waves of opposition of the caste Hindus and accelerate the education that the Government are endeavouring to impart to the Depressed Classes. I hope, Sir, the Hon. the Home Member, who has been a friend and protector of the Depressed Classes, will take into consideration all these factors and have some sympathy for them.

“ As far as Christian schools are concerned, I have to say one word. As the last but one speaker, Mr. Sreshta, said, the Catholics want their children to be sent to Catholic schools; so also, the Muhammadans want their children to be sent to Muhammadan schools. Similarly, the Depressed Classes desire their children to be sent to Hindu

21st March 1934]

[Mr. R. Srinivasan]

schools of their own. The caste Hindus will not admit them in their schools, but the Depressed Classes will observe the Hindu religion in their own schools and teach that religion to their children. Will the Christians like to come to our schools? Will the Christians, if we send our children to their schools, allow us to have our morning pujas, to observe our religion, instruct us in our own religion, etc.? They won't like it. The same consideration should apply to us. Our children should not be forced to learn a foreign religion, or get any other instructions. We should not be treated differently because we are poor, because there is no one to take up our cause and so on.

“ With these remarks, Sir, as there are other Members who have got a lot to say on these matters and deal with the many defects that exist in the education of the Depressed Classes, I close my speech.”

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“ Mr. President, Sir, the Madras Services Commission have mentioned in their report that the examiners reported that in the answers given by the candidates to the questions, there were grammatical mistakes, there were many spelling mistakes and that sometimes only a jumble of words was put on paper. One who knows the system of education that is given in the secondary and lower classes will not be surprised at these remarks; because, Sir, grammar is not taught in the schools at all. Dictation is not given in the schools; the boys do not know where to put the subject or the predicate or the object. In such a case, it is no wonder if they simply put in a jumble of words and gave an answer which perhaps the examiners were not able to understand.

“ The next thing, Sir, is that they are specializing themselves from the fourth form upwards so much so that a young man may become a B.A., an M.A., or an M.L., without knowing where the brain is situated and without having knowledge of physiology. It may even be like this. If you ask him what is fourteen into four, it is possible that he will go on adding one by one on the fingers. That is the sort of education that is given nowadays in our schools. What I would suggest is going back to the system that existed when we were studying. In the Matriculation class in our days, we were taught something of Euclid, something of Geometry, something of Arithmetic, something of Physics, something of Chemistry, something of Geography and something of History and so on. But, under the present system of education, I dare say there are students who do not know what the relationship is between Delhi and India. I only want the Hon. the Minister for Education to go back to the original system of education and in addition have Physiology and Hygiene. If this were done up to the Matriculation class and afterwards specialization is allowed, that will be something. Otherwise, the students will have no general knowledge. We have come across the case of a student who when asked about ‘ kist ’ took it for cyst and said it was a kind of disease. It is a great thing that the young man was able to know that there was a word denoting a disease called cyst in the medical dictionary.

3-15
p.m.

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [21st March 1934]

“Coming to the Champion Scheme, I would counsel caution to the Hon. Minister in introducing it. It is attractive indeed; but it may end in very disastrous consequences. (Hear, hear.) It is said it is not expensive; but I think it will be very expensive. It seeks to abolish elementary schools and have consolidated central schools with junior schools as feeder schools. Pupils from the feeder schools will have to go to the central school. In the feeder schools there will be only the first and second classes. In the consolidated schools there will be third, fourth and fifth classes. After passing the second class, the pupils will have to go to a central school. Let us now imagine whether any of our boys—children of six or seven—will be able to walk a mile to attend a central school. What will be the consequence? The consequence will be that pupils in villages who will have to walk long distances for attending the central school will stop going to school and thus stop education with the second class. And then, Sir, what about our girls? You want our girls of six, seven and eight to walk from one place to another which may be a mile or so away. A mile to and fro twice a day! Apart from this, there are some among the Hindus who observe purdha. How can they go out? What I say is that female education will end with the second standard. Moreover, I would appeal to the Hon. Minister to examine whether the establishment of central schools will not be more expensive than the schools we are having to-day. I would like him to establish the old system of pial school. The thing as it stands to-day is that education will not reach the masses. I would request the Hon. Minister not to rush with the scheme; but to introduce it in some quarters and if it is found successful it may be introduced in other places. But my opinion is that it will never succeed.

“The Madras City Elementary Education Amendment Act works hardship to our aided elementary schools. Aided school education is much cheaper than education under the auspices of either Corporation or Government. On account of this amended Act about 20,000 children are going without education in our City.

“Sir, let me come to the question of admission to colleges. Last time, when we were sitting, we felt that it was not working well and that it will not do justice to the various communities. I would request the Hon. Minister to follow what the Hon. the Chief Minister has done. If that is done, I think all the communities will be satisfied. There should also be a Selection Committee for the Queen Mary's College so that all communities and districts will be represented. There was a cry last time that Telugus were not admitted. I do not know how far it is true. If four people, one from the north, one from the south, one from the east and one from the west are appointed all the districts will be satisfied and the communities will also be satisfied. There was a resolution tabled last time, that there should be committees even for Government High Schools. It is high time the Hon. Minister looks into this question. I know injustice is being done to pupils of various communities in the

21st March 1934] [Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar]

matter of admission to various Government schools. I wish the Hon. Minister will take note of it.

“ Sir, in the Connemara Library all the newspapers, all the dailies of the City were preserved so that if we wanted to know something that happened 10 or 15 years ago, we can know it by a reference to the papers. We can even write a history from a perusal of these dailies. Now—I do not know how it happened—somebody sold away or destroyed all the old newspapers there. One gentleman came to me and wanted to have a perusal of the “ Standard ” wherefrom to gather something about the life of Mr. Parameswaran Pillai, that most independent editor. I went there. Not a single old copy of any daily was found. All were destroyed. Instead of preserving the history of the country recorded in the dailies, they have destroyed it.

“ I do not want to take up the time of the House further, Sir. The Hon. Minister is understood to have said at a meeting in the Presidency College that very soon the beach will be converted into playgrounds for them. (The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar: ‘ No, no. ’) If he has not said so, I am extremely thankful to him. The feeling in the City is very strong. Fortunately, we have got a long beach. Unfortunately the northernmost portion of it is being eroded by the sea and roads and gardens are being submerged. The Government do not seem to take any action in the matter. Coming from Rayapuram to very near the Fort, all the places are occupied by the Port Trust and from there to the Iron Bridge, the land belongs to the Military Department. The only place available for the 600,000 people of the City is that lying between the south of the Iron Bridge and San Thomé. I shall only ask the Hon. Minister to see how many thousands of people assemble at the radio to hear songs broadcast. There are so many cars parked in a row from one end to the other up to San Thomé every evening. If this is to be converted into playgrounds, there will be a lot of difficulty. European ladies and gentlemen come for bathing almost every morning; my Muslim mothers and sisters come in hundreds to the beach on moonlit nights. Where will these people go? In the evenings Hindu ladies go to the beach. Where will all these people go if you are going to give away the beach as playgrounds for young men of 19 and 20 years of age? This is the only breathing space for the whole City. Why are the Government persisting in this? I appeal that the resolution of the Council requesting this to be dropped will have effect. Further, I do not think it is a fit place for young men to take violent exercise. They will perspire and if they expose themselves, they will contract lung diseases. As to the games themselves when there is current of winds even the heavy cricket ball will not go straight much more therefore with a tennis ball. In consideration of this, I hope the Hon. Minister will drop the proposal.

“ Sir, in Germany 8.5 acres of land are kept open for every thousand residents to enable them to roam about and 1 acre for every thousand is allotted for playgrounds, recreation grounds or garden.

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [21st March 1934]

That is what obtains in the European Continent and in Britain it is a little less. In some places 12 per cent of the area is left open simply to enable the inhabitants to roam about. Around Berlin, they have an ambitious plan for acquiring 25,000 acres of forest land for purposes of providing open spaces to the people. Man is after all an animal, an intelligent animal and he wants all the facilities which Nature provides. If the Hon. Minister really wants them to be provided with playgrounds, I would like them to be taken to some open space outside the City as they do in Germany. This is called there holiday games movement. In Germany they are taken to holiday colony movement. Instead of the Hon. Minister taking 120 acres of land from the citizens while they really want much more it will be better to provide vast tracts of land for students to play about outside the City. I shall read from a book regarding the health colonies:—

‘The holiday colony movement as it is called has succeeded so well that in some towns, the boon has been extended to children of the middle class families from whom, as a rule, so much will be expected by the local authorities and for whom so little is done.’

“I would request the Hon. Minister to improve upon what we are having by taking the pupils outside and giving them all the facilities that are enjoyed by the children of Europe and not take away the little beach we, Madrasis, have for refreshing ourselves in the evenings after so much of work daily, political, professional and social.”

* Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHODARI:—“Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I differ from my hon. Friend, Mr. Sreshta, on the question of consolidation. As a matter of fact, the scheme of consolidation was started by Mr. Champion some four years back and it has not been given effect to all these years on account of agitation. My Friend, Mr. Sreshta, has pointed out certain practical grievances resulting from consolidation. I know the Hon. Minister will reply to him. But still, I shall just analyse some practical points. Mr. D. S. Reddi has toured throughout the Presidency and given instructions to all the Deputy Inspectors of Schools and District Educational Officers relating to the principle of relaxation.

“As a matter of fact, there should be only one Depressed Class school in every village, but in a particular village in my district, there are three such schools run by the Roman Catholics, U.L.C.M. and A.B.M. authorities with a school-going population of about 40 or 50 boys. From this, we see, Sir, we are sustaining a loss on account of these three schools which can easily be avoided if there is only one school and the savings thus effected may well be utilized for other purposes, for instance, for building and furniture grants. We are unnecessarily spending Government money on account of the multiplication of these schools, instead of spending money on the improvement of elementary education. Sir, consolidation of schools is very essential and as a matter of fact the scheme can be worked out successfully if we only carry out the instructions given by Mr. Reddi himself. I will leave that subject at that.

21st March 1934] [Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari]

“ According to the Government Order the District Educational Council is given two months, and another two months for departmental officers for discussing matters and a report will then be sent to the Director of Public Instruction and from them it will be sent to the Government, who will pass final orders. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Sreshta, suggested, we can have a committee appointed, if necessary—personally I do not think a committee is necessary.

“ Now, as regards grants for playgrounds, we find there is a provision of Rs. 11,800 only in the Budget. It is quite insufficient for meeting the needs of several high schools both under public management as well as private management, scattered throughout the Presidency. Not only that, according to one of the Government Orders, they have restricted the value of an acre of playground to the maximum of Rs. 500. Whatever the cost per acre may be in other parts of the Presidency, so far as the deltaic areas are concerned, it is very difficult to get an acre for Rs. 500. At least, from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 will be required for an acre. Besides, some of the high schools are located in central places and in their case, even more than this amount will be required. So, I request Government to increase the maximum prescribed by them, in view of the circumstances of the particular localities. In such cases, there is no use laying down any hard-and-fast rule and fixing the rate at a maximum average rate of Rs. 500 an acre.

“ Then, as regards building grants, the Government have provided about Rs. 55,000 for distribution to the schools in the whole Presidency and I consider this amount is quite insufficient. They have also stated that this sum is intended to carry out the promises previously made, but no such promise has been made in regard to the future. I cannot therefore understand why they have not made even a conditional promise that Government would promise to give building grants to the various managements for the construction of buildings at least when funds are available.

“ Now, as regards elementary education, about a sum of Rs. 16,000 is provided for building grants. This amount is absolutely insufficient. For instance, in my district itself, there are several aided elementary schools which have applied for very large amounts of grants and as a matter of fact they are in a position to spend even Rs. 50,000 by way of building grants. Therefore, the provision of Rs. 16,000 for the whole Presidency is quite inadequate and it is unjustifiable on the part of the Government to provide such a paltry sum on account of elementary education. At this rate, I do not think, Government can expect to improve the condition of the building of elementary schools and unless the Government are prepared to come forward with a definite and substantial sum, I am afraid, they cannot improve the condition of elementary schools in any appreciable degree.

“ As regards district educational councils, Government have given only two clerks on a uniform basis. As a matter of fact, there are some district educational councils which have got under them about 700 schools

[Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari] [21st March 1934]

and there are others which have even 2,000 schools. So, no discrimination has been made in the number of clerks given to district educational councils. It is really unjustifiable. I would therefore request the Government to consider the nature of the work, the number of cheques to be issued by each district educational council, and sanction the necessary establishment. But, there is no use making it uniform for all councils without considering the amount of work. When we are thinking of appointing executive officers for every municipal council and district boards now, I cannot understand why Government should not give a permanent secretary to the district educational council of each place. As a matter of fact, I myself made two or three representations to the Government to the effect that they should give the services of one deputy inspector to the district educational council, so that our work may run on satisfactory lines and that the district educational councils may prove more efficient from the administrative point of view. The salary of a deputy inspector will not after all be more than Rs. 2,000 a year which is a very paltry sum when compared with the several lakhs of rupees we are spending every year. If Government would only permit us to save this amount from the grants which are given to the district educational councils, every council can have one deputy inspector. I am not anxious that we should have a separate officer being appointed in every district educational council. What I mean is, Government may lend the services of one of their deputy inspectors to work as secretary to the council. Already, we have one secretary at the headquarters of the deputy inspector's office, who is not at all helpful, though there is a Government Order stating that he should function under the president of the council for all district educational work, but on account of the dual control it is not possible for him to do so and no deputy inspector will ever care for the president of the district educational council, because he is a mere subordinate to the district educational officer. When the Hon. the Minister for Education visited our district, we have also presented to him an address, and in that address these grievances also were pointed out to him for his consideration; and though it is nearly two and a half years since that happened, I am sorry to note no effect has so far been given to those representations.

“In regard to the travelling allowance granted to the deputy inspectors, they were given fixed travelling allowances before. They have now changed the system and are giving them only daily allowances. The Hon. the Minister in reply to a question this morning on the subject, stated that he wanted notice. I would request the Hon. Minister to revert to the old system of giving fixed travelling allowance. Not only that, when they have to inspect more than thirty or forty schools in a municipality, they must be permitted to count the inspection of five schools as one tour day, at least, for I know the difficulties to which they are put to. In a municipality like Guntur which has got about sixty schools, if he is to inspect all of them at the same time and to show the number of tours on this account, it is really very difficult on the part of the deputy inspector, unless he is prepared to cook up a false

21st March 1934] [Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari]

diary. I would therefore suggest the system of fixed travelling allowance may be revived, and they may also be exempted from showing the number of tour days where in any municipality there are more than forty or fifty schools within a radius of five miles.

“ There is yet another thing I want to mention, Sir. The days on which the deputy inspectors attend to their duty in the district educational council, are treated as tour days. But, in view of certain objections raised by the Accountant-General, Government have passed orders directing the recovery of travelling allowances already drawn by about ten or fifteen deputy inspectors. So that, they have to pay large sums of money on account of this recovery for no fault of theirs but for the fault of the instructions issued by the Director of Public Instruction. As these people are subordinate to Government, they are not in a position to revolt against such an action, but they are compelled to obey the orders issued by Government. As a matter of fact, the secretary of the district educational council in my district has got to pay about Rs. 1,000 on account of the recovery ordered by Government. I would therefore request the Government to reconsider their order and give a favourable decision in regard to this man.

“ Coming then to night schools, though about 75 per cent of them have to be closed according to the orders issued, they have not been given effect to in various districts. I would therefore request Government to insist on the closure of as many night schools as possible. In my district, we have closed almost all the night schools, although we had the largest number of such schools.

“ Sir, Government have allotted a certain amount to each district educational council for distribution as teaching grants. What I would request Government is, if there should be any balance that may be found after distributing teaching grants, may be permitted to be used for furniture grants or for building grants by these councils. Instead of allotting separate funds or incurring additional expenditure on account of building grants or furniture grants, they may permit the district educational councils to utilize any surplus or balance which they may find after distributing teaching grants.

“ In my district, Sir, we have got a Roman Catholic high school for girls at the headquarters of the district but unfortunately, though it is one of the best girls' schools, Government have not given any adequate grant to that school; and this is a school conducted very efficiently by the Roman Catholic Mission. Unfortunately, Sir, there is no Roman Catholic member representing my district in this Council—and the two members that are representing my district are both Protestants—and so I thought I might bring this fact to the notice of the Hon. the Minister for Education.

“ One word more and I am done. The district educational councils have been restricted to 50 per cent in the matter of giving grants. Hitherto, we were having the power of using our discretion to grant even

[Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari] [21st March 1934]

cent per cent of the grant. Gradually this power was reduced to 75 per cent and now it has come down to 50 per cent. I therefore request the Government to reconsider the matter and give us power to grant up to 75 per cent at least.

“ As there are several other speakers anxious to speak on the subject, I now resume my seat.”

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, some of the previous speakers remarked that there was no policy guiding the Government with regard to the promotion of elementary education. On the other hand, we have got a policy very well and clearly laid down in pursuance of a circular of the Government of India and also the proclamation issued at the time of His Majesty's Coronation. So, I do not think any policy is wanting with regard to the promotion of elementary education. Only, we have to consider how far that policy is being developed or pursued by the Government. Ever since the introduction of Compulsory Elementary Education Act and after the passing of that Act, for two or three years, we had free compulsory education introduced in some of the municipalities and also in one or two taluk boards, but afterwards there has been a lull and the lull still continues. Now, as regards compensation, the private schools stood in the way of introducing free and compulsory education on a larger scale and that Act was also amended last year and I see no reason why the system of compulsory education could not be pushed through more rapidly that it has been hitherto. Of course finance has been the difficulty which stood in the way during the last few years. I think in course of time the Hon. Minister for Education will find it easier to put through the scheme of compulsory education on a more satisfactory basis than it has been done hitherto. Since the amending of the Act only two municipalities have introduced compulsion and not more than that, perhaps only one. For this I cannot but blame the Government. They may say that the initiative must be taken by the local bodies. I must say for the information of the Government that after the passing of the Act when compulsion was introduced if the Government had asked the Inspector of Local Bodies to visit the local boards and give them a scheme of education by which they could work the scheme financially without any extra taxation things would have been better. If this is not done, primary education cannot take more rapid strides. I am one of those, Sir, who have been supporting the Champion scheme from the beginning. Some seem to think that the Champion scheme retards promotion of compulsory education. I am of the view that it promoted compulsory education better and more efficiently than before. All of us know that there is much of overlapping of elementary schools in every place. Doing away with that does not mean retarding of elementary education. Overlapping clearly showed inefficiency and that was why the Champion scheme was suggested. In regard to that scheme I have a suggestion to make with regard to overlapping. Overlapping arises because of the different management. In the same place we have different schools under different management. If we have in a place three

21st March 1934] [Mr. C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar]

or four different schools they are under different management. In a village where there are three schools one is managed by the taluk board, another by a mission and yet a third is managed by the teacher-manager. Their interests are at stake and everyone connected with the respective institution wants that his school should not be closed. If the Government will pass an order that there cannot be schools managed by different authorities in the same locality, there will not be much difficulty. If they think that missionaries must be given an opportunity, let them give village A or village B instead of having it in a place where they have local board schools. If this is done there would be much wastage and often misunderstanding. It is only when there is a conflict of interests that the schools must be closed. Then there will be efficiency and economy. This suggestion I throw out to the Hon. Minister for what it is worth. As I told before with regard to the municipalities, compulsion should be introduced more speedily than in any other place. Champion scheme is sure to help such a course. With regard to the overlapping of schools I must also blame the deputy inspectors of schools. They seem to encourage the overlapping of schools because they feel with regard to the local board schools because their interest suffer to some extent. They encourage teacher-manager schools and the private managers also care for the interests of the deputy inspectors in a way. More than that I do not want to pursue. It is this that is responsible for the Champion scheme being criticized in the way in which it is being done. I wish to refer to a Government Order recently issued by Government where they suggest different scales of pay for elementary school teachers. They specify rates for Government schools and local boards and municipalities whose financial position is fairly good and they have also suggested a scale for the teachers in schools whose local bodies are not in a financially good condition. But they have not said how many teachers they must appoint and under what grades. They have not stated how many secondary trained teachers should be appointed and how many elementary trained teachers should be appointed. They have not stated how many with higher training and how many with lower training. Without saying all that they say the local boards can adopt any scale. They simply say if they are secondary grade a certain scale and if they are another grade another scale. When this is so in a place where there are half a dozen teachers three are appointed with secondary training and the rest from others. Taking advantage of the Government Order they say they can appoint any number of teachers without caring for the funds of the local boards. So I would request Government to send an amending Government Order that with regard to a school with a fixed number of teachers there can be so many on such and such a scale instead of leaving it vague as at present.

“ I wish to say a few words with regard to the admission to Saidapet Training College and the training school for masters. As Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar pointed out we should have committees of admission to these schools. We have got a committee for the Saidapet College and not for the training schools for masters. I understand that for the Saidapet

[Mr. C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar] [21st March 1934]

College they admitted about 180 students and they allotted 75 or 80 seats to members of one community and 80 to all other communities. Even yesterday I heard this. I will leave that community unsaid. It is a great hardship to all the communities put together. For the Brahman community they have allotted 75. Last year they have done it and this year also they have done it. It is not now even too late for the Hon. Minister to interfere. It cannot be said that members of other communities do not apply. I believe there are more than 150 applications from other communities and still they allotted a greater percentage in proportion to the number of applications received. If out of 500 applications 250 are from one community, that community will get 50 per cent of the seats. That is not the criterion by which selection should be made to a college. As regards the training schools for masters in the mufassal, there is no advisory committee. It is highly necessary that such a committee is appointed. Several backward communities and Depressed Classes have complained that their applications have been rejected and that applications from other communities have been admitted. When Government have laid down a policy with regard to the education of the Depressed Classes, there is this feeling that they are not at all admitted in the training schools. I request the Hon. Minister to see that such committees are appointed for the every one of the training schools for masters.

“I should like to say a few words about the conversion of the fore-shore into a playing ground. I entirely agree with Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar. This question came before the Finance Committee two years ago and some two of the students of the Presidency College were there and it was carried. Even there there was the difference of opinion and if this is done the contagion will be spreading and afterwards it may be very difficult to go back.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Mr. Deputy President, Sir, if there is any department which is more popular than any other department of this Government, it is the Education department. Sir, as it is well known that, if, any nation shows advance politically and socially, it is so when literacy widely spreads among its population. The Government of the country has done so little during the past 150 years that it becomes necessary for members to get up and ask Government to revise its policy and see that literacy is spread as widely as possible. It is now five or six years since we know that the percentage of literate men in this Province is not more than 18 or 19 per cent and with regard to women it is much less. When the Government have been spending three crores on Education, the people have not become literally advanced. Sir, the Government are spending more money on higher education than they ought to do. They have been spending much more on higher education and also in maintaining secondary schools throughout the Province. Instead of that, if the Government had confined their attention almost entirely to mass education, they would have discharged their duty to a considerable extent. It is by concentrating on mass education that it can be said that the Government have discharged their

21st March 1934] [Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan]

responsibility. No doubt without university education it will not be possible for us to secure the services of really efficient teachers for the education of the children of all classes throughout the Province. But, Sir, that argument, I do not think, will carry much weight, in view of the fact that we have been producing such a large number of graduates that we should stop the spread of higher education in the Province which has so far been found very useful; on the other hand we must direct our attention to the spread of literacy among the people.

"I emphasize this point more particularly in view of the fact that 4 p.m. with the inauguration of the new Reforms the electorate will be considerably enlarged. In order that our Legislative Councils should consist of representatives chosen by literate and intelligent electorates, we should see that they get proper education. The policy of the Government for a long time has been to filter down education from the top. That has been found to be a failure. The educated people, having had no sort of connexion with the masses, find themselves absolutely useless for this work of filtering down education to the masses. In the result that theory has now been revised and the educational authorities are now thinking of educating the people from the bottom and, even there, they have not succeeded to any appreciable extent. The Government have, in addition to imparting education to the children of the various communities, also to spend a certain sum of money on the education of adults. Sir, it is a deplorable fact that the Government has not been devoting adequate attention to this part of their responsibility. Adult education has, to a very large extent, been ignored by the Government for a long number of years. It is true that they are spending a paltry sum here and a paltry sum there for this purpose, but I am sure the amount so spent is very inadequate.

"Sir, for some time now, the Government have given up the practice of granting stipends and scholarships to students of the backward communities. Scholarships and stipends may not be necessary for the advanced communities and for well-to-do boys, but certainly the other communities, communities which are backward in the matter of education, do require these facilities to enable them to come up to the level of the advanced communities. It is the duty of the Government to afford these facilities to children of the backward communities to enable them to advance educationally. The need for these facilities is greater for the Muslims and Depressed Classes in Medical colleges, Veterinary colleges and Training colleges. Therefore additional facilities ought to be given to them in these directions. The House will remember what my hon. Friend, Mr. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, said about the selection for admission to the Teachers' College and how the backward communities did not get their adequate share. In cases where there are ten candidates of a backward community only five of them are selected, whereas a very large number of the advanced communities which can certainly wait till their sister communities come up to their level are selected. These are some of the disabilities from which the backward

[Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan]

[21st March 1934]

communities suffer. I wonder how, in these circumstances, the Government and the Hon. Minister for Education withdrew the stipends and scholarships of the backward communities who are in need of facilities for their educational advancement.

“ Sir, the absence of provision for medical inspection of schools in the Budget makes me feel that the Government have given up the question of medical inspection of schools. I find no provision made for the purpose either for secondary schools or for elementary schools. A provision for this purpose is very necessary. I understand from the Hon. Minister for Education that it was the Finance Committee that was responsible for it. If that is the case, I would charge the Finance Committee with ignorance and neglect of this very responsible duty. Sir, children of the poorer classes especially, do require medical attention and, if you are going to refuse this, there is no use giving them education. Education is of no use to a man who is not healthy. In my opinion it is very necessary that the Government should provide for medical inspection in this Budget itself.

“ Well, coming now to the Champion scheme, a great deal has already been said about it. I certainly agree with my hon. Friends who have spoken in favour of it that it is an ideal scheme; but if you are going to put it into practice in a Province where we have a number of communities speaking a number of languages and where there are also varying grades of educational progress, I must demur. Here there are communities which are well advanced educationally and there are communities which are not so well advanced and there are also communities which are not at all counted in the matter of education. How then are you going to adopt one scheme in a Province of this kind? If you put that scheme into practice in the present conditions you will be driving to the wall those communities that are backward in education. Of course if my hon. Friends belonging to the other communities want this scheme to be adopted for their communities, I have absolutely no objection; but, for God's sake, leave off those communities which do not want it. (Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam: ‘Hear, hear.’) I have no objection to these people enjoying the benefits of this scheme; but I would ask them not to interfere with the educational advancement of the backward communities. Hon. Members know the effect of the introduction of this scheme on the minority communities. There is no doubt that the schools will be there and the existing disabilities will also be there and the result will be that the Adi-Dravidas and Muslims will not get the benefit of education. Therefore it is necessary that, so far as the Muslims and the depressed classes, and I believe, also the Roman Catholics are concerned, the Champion scheme should be given the go-by.

“ So far as the Muslim education is concerned, I must in this connexion express our debt of gratitude to the Hon. Minister for doing his best to accede to the request of my community in certain matters. I must particularly mention his action in making it possible for us to get

21st March 1934] [Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan]

religious instruction imparted in all schools where Muslim children are studying. I hope, Sir, it will not be long before this order is given a practical shape whereby the Muslims will be enabled to derive full advantage.

"As regards the report of the Muslim Education Committee is concerned, I am not sure why the Government have not yet published it. If the Government publish that report, it will be possible for the Members of our community throughout the Province to give expression to their opinion on it and it will facilitate the Government in passing its orders.

"Sir, on the question of female education among Muslims, as it has not advanced among them, I would request the Hon. Minister to afford special facilities by means of stipends and scholarships. As the Hon. Minister is aware, on account of the purda system and on account of other difficulties, they require some more facilities than other communities. In the other communities also, women are not much advanced in the matter of education and they too require encouragement. But, the case of the Muslims is peculiar and so they require special facilities. I am sure the House and the Government will not grudge us the facilities that we ask for, because, after all, they will agree with me when I say that they would like to take the sisters of the other communities along with them so that it will not be said of our nation that our people are illiterate and uneducated.

"Sir, I conclude with a request regarding the Hobart school. The Hobart school is located in the southern part of the city and is affording opportunities for the education of women living in the southern parts of the city. The northern part of the city has not been provided with a high school for girls though I have been asking for it for the last eight or nine years year after year. The Deputy Inspectress, Mrs. Howe, was responsible for denying this school to us for some time. Now, Sir, since the times are propitious and helpful financially and otherwise, I hope the Government will agree to incur the necessary expenditure for providing a girls' high school for Muslims in the northern part of the City of Madras."

MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, at the outset of my observations, I would request the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education to the inadequacy of the provision for elementary education in this Province. It is acknowledged on all hands that elementary education is the foundation for all educational and civic progress. And yet we find that year after year grants for elementary education are becoming more and more inadequate.

"It may be said that as a matter of fact that the figures of the present year exceed the figures of the previous years to a certain extent. But that increased figure is, I submit, only illusory. Because year after year the lot of elementary education is bound to go downward instead of upward. Every year there are more and more elementary schools brought into existence, and every year we are turning out untrained teachers. Government insist, and insist rightly that all

4-15
P.m.

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

[21st March 1934]

untrained teachers in the higher grade should be substituted by trained teachers, and similarly that all untrained lower grade teachers should be substituted by trained lower grade teachers. Now how can this be achieved unless greater and greater amounts are allotted? For does not this imply greater cost? If we analyse the figures of grant supplied to the District Educational Councils, we find that as a matter of fact these allotments are far below the assessed grant. Mr. Choudari complained that whereas District Educational Councils are given at present the option of 50 per cent increase in former years in certain areas even 100 per cent increase was allowed. Now, Sir, what is the use of having 50 per cent increase as our allotments when the actual sums disbursed are much below the assessed grant? Last year the District Educational Councils adopted a cut of 4 per cent in the assessed grant and this year, I think, it would come to still more, probably nearly 6 per cent. All this results from the discretion allowed to the officers. And the result is that it is impossible to carry on the institutions when the allotment fall far below the assessed grants. It is only by a manipulation of figures that in certain places something more is given and in certain other places something less is given. So I submit the Government is not doing its duty in the sphere of elementary education in gradually cutting down our grants from year to year, when as a matter of fact, as was pointed out by several hon. Members, it is lavishing money, so to speak, on secondary grade and collegiate education. What is the use of spending money on such things when you are only increasing the number of the educated unemployed every year? So it is unwise economy to spend sums on higher education.

“Then, again, Sir, in the matter of affording building grants to elementary schools, I have to submit that they are following the same unwise policy of parsimony. Mr. Choudari pointed out that only a sum of Rs. 60,000 has been granted. This sum does not really denote the sum allotted for the next year. Probably this figure includes sums which have been granted some years back and have been ‘left’ unspent for some reason or other. As a matter of fact, not a single pie has been allotted this year for any building for any primary school anywhere in the whole Presidency. In fact I had occasion to point out to the Government that in my own place there was an Adi-Dravida school, and it was burnt down, and no sum has been granted to rebuild it. Now what are those Adi-Dravidas to do? I can understand if Government give away grants for this purpose very rarely and for extreme urgent cases only. But I cannot understand them putting down a stern and stiff rule that no building grant will be given this year. I ask the Hon. Minister, is this a statesmanlike policy?

“Then, Sir, in the matter of equipment policy also the same rule is being followed. I understand from an answer, which the Hon. Minister, in his reply during the general discussion of the Budget, gave that the ban has been lifted, and that we are allowed to put in applications. But I find on subsequent inquiry that that ban has been lifted only with reference to secondary schools; and that the embargo continues with reference to elementary schools.

21st March 1934]

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

“ Here again I wish to point out that Government are following an unwise policy. In fact the equipment required for elementary schools is very very small, and even sums of Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 would be quite enough, and so I don't think Government have any reason for discrimination in the matter of building grants. If at all there is any case for discrimination it is the other way round; i.e., building grants should be given to elementary schools rather than to secondary schools. Here again I would respectfully draw the attention of the Hon. the Education Minister to this aspect of the matter and see that it is set aright.

“ Again, Mr. Choudari referred to the entertainment of applications for grants. Now I cannot understand why these applications should be sent back. Why not these applications be retained in the office itself, and their claims considered when Government are in a position to allot funds? We are not asking for money, if Government are not able to pay it at once. The mere retention of these applications does not commit Government one way or the other. It only means, if, when and as funds become available Government may make grants. I ask why not retain these applications on these narrow and vague conditions? And as I said, Sir, Government can very easily meet with the request of these applications; and so here again I wish to say that Government are pursuing an unwise policy.

“ Then there is another thing of recent occurrence, to which I wish to advert, and that is as regards granting supplementary grants. In this matter many of the managements were all on a sudden met with a different interpretation from that put upon by the general public. The Government gave a narrow interpretation and on that account many managements had to suffer and go without grants, much to their keen disappointment and pecuniary loss. They said that, if within the whole of the previous year or a particular period, all the teachers in a particular institution were trained hands, then and then alone can that institution get that grant. It so happened that in an institution in my place there happened to be a single untrained teacher for one month during the whole of one year, and on that ground the additional grant was refused, though the management never thought for a single moment that they would be refused the grant on that petty ground. The fact that there were seven or eight trained teachers on the roll did not appeal to Government at all. The application for grant was received from this school in the District Educational Office in the month of September; and this Government Order was issued only in November. So, I ask, is it fair to refuse grant even though the application was received prior to the issue of this order? The management anticipating grant had made some arrangements and now they have to suffer a loss. I can understand if the grant is refused to those applications received after the issue of this Government order, or rather after all the managements had been made to understand the real interpretation of the Government order. So, I would appeal to Government not to enforce this Government order till the end of March 1935, and allow the old practice to continue for the current year.

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

[21st March 1934]

“ Sir, I have one other thing to speak on, and that is with reference to the night schools. Mr. Hameed Khan referred to adult literacy, and said that the only means of securing that is by means of night schools only. I know as a matter of fact that throughout the whole Province many of these night schools are merely bogus affairs. They are only nominal things run for the sake of securing grants. They merely exist on paper, and the grants are merely a profit and loss affair. But the fact that there a few such cases does not entitle Government to make a sweeping remark that all these night schools should be wiped out. What is wanted in such cases is greater control and greater inspection. That is the right course that Government should take. So in the interest of literacy I request Government to continue grants for these night schools. In my own district I applied for a sum of Rs. 2,000 for night schools but I was given only Rs. 1,200, and for the whole district a sum of Rs. 3,000 has been given. And I don't know what induced the Government to do this, when other districts have been liberally served.

“ Then, Sir, with your indulgence I wish to devote myself to the question of the Champion scheme. I would say at the outset that so far as the principles are involved in that scheme I have no objection. The idea and the ideals which underlie that scheme deserve the very careful consideration of those who are responsible for elementary education. The only thing I would submit is that we are not beginning that matter fresh for the first time, as it were, with a clean slate. If the scheme is to be put into operation it should be introduced gradually step by step and it should be spread over a period of ten years. As Mr. Hameed Khan pointed out the question will be met with the conflicting class interests. There is the question of Depressed Classes, there is the question of Muslims, and there is the question of so many other things. So I would appeal to the Hon. Education Minister to see the scheme spread out over a period of ten years. If that is not to be, let them start it in a few select districts first, see how it works, and with the greater efficiency and progress achieved introduce it in the other districts gradually year after year within a course of ten years. I would suggest that to begin with let them choose two places in each district, an urban area and a rural area. I warn Government against experimenting with this scheme. We have already had enough of experiments. We have made experiments in Local Self-Government, we have made experiments in connexion with the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act; and I therefore warn Government against such a thing in the field of education. I submit there are several new provisions in the Champion scheme introduced to safeguard the interests of the management. For instance, the report provides that no management should close down its school unless it agrees to be prepared to come into the central scheme. I submit that provisions of this character should be given a liberal interpretation and that the district and subordinate officers ought not to be allowed to rush through the scheme and interpret the rules very severely.

21st March 1934]

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

“ Then, Sir, with reference to what was said by Mr. Sreshta, I do not know whether one central committee would be sufficient for each district, all the more so since this scheme is particularly of a local character. I believe in the district education councils all interests ought to be represented, Catholics and Protestants, Hindus and Muslims and the Depressed Classes. Then only will that council be competent to tender proper advice and judge of the rate of pace and progress with which the scheme should be worked out.

“ Only one other observation with regard to junior schools. One of the great acknowledged evils is the wastage which arises from the expenditure in maintaining lower classes, when compared with the expenditure incurred in maintaining higher classes. It has been admitted that 50 per cent of the students do not go to higher standards. Something like a crore of rupees is being wasted in the case of students who do not go beyond the first standard. The object of consolidation is to prevent as much wastage as possible. If the school has only junior standard or second standard, the boy or girl who is reading in that class would naturally like to go to a school which is near by them and which has also higher classes. So I would suggest that these junior schools may be allowed to have classes up to the third standard. It has been suggested by the letter of the Director of Public Instruction that in a central school separate classes, wherever necessary, may be held for girls from fourth standard onwards. Even a junior school up to third standard would meet the requirements of the situation. So, I appeal to the Hon. Minister in charge to look into this matter and see that these things are not worked in a cut and dried fashion but that laxity and allowance are made according to the needs of the local areas so that in certain areas junior schools may be allowed to come up to third standard. I would submit that subject to the needs of consolidation and paying due attention to the recommendations of the district educational council and subject also to proper consent being obtained from the management of those aided and other institutions which are not prepared to come in the central scheme, subject to these restrictions and considerations, the scheme is very desirable which may be carefully worked up in the course of a number of years. It should not be hurried with any indecent haste.

“ Only one word more with regard to the remarks of Mr. Srinivasan against Christian missionaries. The only thing I would submit in reply to his remarks is that his remarks appear to me as a mark of unkindliness, to put it at the least. I would not say ‘ ingratitude.’ I would call it merely unkindness on the part of my hon. Friend to have attacked the Christian missionaries as having stood in the way of educating the Depressed Classes. On the other hand, if there is one body in this Province who has been responsible for the education and uplift of the Depressed Classes more than anybody else and more than the so-called Depressed Class Members themselves, I would say it is the body of Christian missionaries. For the last fifty years this body has been working for the uplift of the down-trodden classes. I would

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

[21st March 1934]

only read from the speech of the hon. Mr. M. C. Raja in the Legislative Assembly when speaking on the Anti-Untouchability Bill. He says:—

‘In this connexion I should deal with two aspects of the question, the genesis of this movement and the genesis of this Bill. The first attempt at the reclamation of the down-trodden classes was made by the European Christian missionaries. The Christian Mission schools are democratic institutions, where the low and the meek, the depressed and the oppressed, the poor and the struggling, are treated with equal attention with the high and the rich, the progressive and the flourishing, the socially high and the politically strong. The Christian Mission schools open their door wide to all, but especially to the outcaste and the down-trodden fulfilling Christ's sayings: “He that is least among you the same shall be great”.’

Nothing further is needed to disprove the statement of my hon. Friend and in the light of that I hope he would revise his opinion.”

Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—“The other day in replying to the general discussion on the Budget, the Hon. the Minister for Education was surprised that the hon. Members of this House, particularly those representing the minority communities, should have entertained any alarm regarding the Champion scheme and its working. I wonder, Sir, whether—astute politician that he is—he would be still surprised if, in spite of what he said the other day, we return to the attack. His remarks were so vague, elusive and evasive. He has made no statement which could to any extent remove the fears which we have entertained regarding the working of this scheme. I would just invite the attention of hon. Members to two pertinent portions of his speech by which he presumably intended to reassure hon. Members. He began by saying:—

‘One thing on which I found that needless alarm is entertained by some hon. Members representing the Muslims, the Indian Christians and the Depressed Classes is with regard to the implementing of the scheme.’

Then, he goes on to give us the history and the various stages through which this report has gone and concludes by saying:—

‘It was definitely mentioned, Sir, that the schemes need not conform to the prescribed type or design, but must have relation to the circumstances of the locality in which it was to be brought into effect.’

He was not pleased to, probably he could not, go into further details as to what the circumstances were which he desired to be taken into account. I would submit that something more definite and concrete than a reply of this type would be required to reassure the minority communities. I would ask him to make it clear to this House by a categorical statement as to how the aided institutions, particularly the mission-aided institutions, are going to be dealt with under this scheme. I advisedly make a distinction between the ordinary aided institutions and the mission-aided institutions; because, there is no denying the fact that amongst mission institutions you would hardly find any of those teacher-manager schools, which ordinarily are said to be inefficient. You will find that every one of these institutions, whether Protestant or Catholic, has been started not with a view to giving sustenance or maintenance to a private individual, but on high motives of philanthropy, and of religion. They are under the managements

21st March 1934] [Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

of persons whose sole object is not the securing of financial aid from Government. They are under the management of people who do not themselves take up the work of teaching and therefore are in a position to extract good work from the teachers. Two hon. Members representing the Depressed Classes were pleased to refer to the mission institutions in rather derisive terms, and my hon. Friend, the Christian Member from Tinnevely, has partly dealt with them. May I only point out that these mission institutions are all institutions which have been started and worked by a band of selfless men and women from distant Europe who leaving behind for ever all that is nearest and dearest to them come over here for devoting themselves to the service of humanity and make this country their own? No less disinterested are the Indian Christian missionaries of the Catholics among whom I could speak with personal knowledge.

“ Sir, if to-day the Catholic community is not able to boast of a larger number of Swamikannus and Rathnaswamis, it is due to the fact that year after year the best products of our Catholic colleges withdraw themselves into religious societies with a view to devote themselves to the service of God by giving up their best and giving up all for the sake of their fellow-citizens. And it seems to me rather uncharitable that these persons, whether European or Indian, who have devoted themselves so disinterestedly to this work should be subjected to any adverse criticism particularly from Depressed Class Members who, as my hon. Friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas, has said, must feel themselves under an eternal debt of gratitude to these missionaries. If I lay so much emphasis on this aspect of missionary institutions, I am prompted to do so by reason of certain statements which, I understand on reliable authority, have been made by responsible officials of the department. I have been told that a certain gentleman occupying a very high position in the Educational Service has remarked about these ‘ Wretched Catholics ’ obstructing every scheme that is put forward by the Government with special reference to the Champion scheme. I have also heard it said that another officer of almost equal rank has stated thus:—‘ Oh, the objection to the Champion scheme comes from this despicable minority of Catholics and the Government are certainly not going to take note of a protest from a negligible minority of that type and the Champion scheme will go on.’ Sir, hearing the reports of this sort, is it any wonder, I ask, that we, Catholics, minority though we be, do not feel any reassurance, the assurances of the Hon. Minister notwithstanding? I may state that a despicable minority though we may be, we have shown in other countries that mere numbers were never of any moment in achieving the objects we had in view. It may be that in matters purely political or social we may not assert ourselves and we may take things lying down, but on matters which are of a religious or a quasi-religious character, I would remind the Government and the hon. Members of this House that the Catholic population of England, which is not proportionately much more than the Catholic population of this Province, has forced the mighty

[Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

[21st March 1934]

British Government to come to terms with them and that the same spirit actuates every Catholic, whether he be in England or in India or in any other country.

“ Sir, regarding education my hon. Friend, the Christian Member from South Kanara, explained the position of the Catholics. To us it is a question of religion and almost a matter of faith. It may be that cynics may laugh at the Catholic community as being obscurantists and that it takes its orders from Rome. Well, Sir, we are not ashamed of it. Sir, to us it is a matter of religion, a matter of conscience. If this is a free country and if in the near future we are going to have the sort of Government which is going to make us freer still, I ask ‘ Are we not entitled to freedom of conscience in matters religious? ’ and that is the view I take of this matter.

4-45
p.m

“ I shall explain my point for the edification of my hon. Friend. What is the duty which a parent has towards his child? Is it to stop with the animal art of producing the child and building up its physique and has he not got any other duty towards his child, in the matter of building it up mentally and morally? I ask ‘ Is it not my duty to see that my son is brought up in my faith, the one which I believe to be the only true faith? ’ Are you going to ask me to expose my child to the danger of being given religious education in a school maintained by a community other than mine, where other religions may be taught and where other religious ideas may be put into his head? (Mr. V. T. Arasu: ‘ Hear, hear. ’) My hon. Friend for the Province, as Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan called him, may shout out ‘ hear, hear. ’ Free mental development and thinking is not meant for children of seven to ten years of age. That is the most receptive stage when you should take care to see that no dangerous ideas are put into the child’s head. Apart from the question of the Catholic principle, I put it also on the simpler ground of a parent’s right to impart to his child the sort of education which he thinks to be best fitted to develop him into a helpful and useful citizen of the future. It is on these grounds that we base our claim, for our schools being allowed to develop in the manner in which we think best.

“ The Hon. the Minister may tell us—as he told us the other day—that there is nothing in the Champion scheme which would stand in the way of our developing our own schools and that the Catholic institutions will not be affected.

“ But I would just invite attention to a few lines from the Champion report. Turning to paragraph 17, you find it stated that the anafalgamation of schools under public management offers no real difficulty; but amalgamation of schools under private management is not so simple. This is exactly what the report says:

‘ A school under denominational management, of long standing, with its own building, cannot reasonably be required to merge itself in a school under public management, or to combine with another aided school under different management; that consolidation so far as aided schools are concerned must be with the full and free agreement of the management.’

21st March 1934] [Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

That makes very good reading; apparently a very sensible and a very reasonable statement. But I only ask who is it that is going to decide whether a particular aided school satisfies all these conditions. What I would particularly like to know is, 'Who is to decide that a school is a well-conducted aided school?' Are we not going to be thrown after all, on the mercies of the lower subordinate services of the Educational department?—that is if you accept the scheme of Mr. Champion as it is. But what is the progress which this scheme has made since the report was first presented in the year 1930? We find that on 23rd April 1930 by order of the Government, this report was referred to local bodies for the submission of proposals towards consolidating and concentrating elementary school education in their areas. This is what it says:

'All local bodies which maintain elementary schools are advised to prepare in the light of the suggestions made in the report as modified in paragraph 1 above, schemes for the consolidation and concentration of elementary schools in their areas and submit them to the Director of Public Instruction.'

A report has therefore to be made, if this Government Order is to be given effect to, presumably by a subordinate official; that would be sent up to the local body; and that local body would submit a scheme not merely for schools under its management and under its control but for all schools, whether aided or not, within its area; on that report the Director of Public Instruction will carefully examine the schemes before they are put into operation. In the whole process from beginning to end, aided institutions come in nowhere at all. Is their voice to be heard at all? Are you going to give them a chance of representing their own case?

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIAR:—"May I correct my hon. Friend? The Government Order of 1930 did not contemplate aided schools; it related to schools under public management. If the hon. Member reads the Champion scheme and the Government Order together, it will be absolutely plain. It is not the idea to bring in aided schools."

Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I am glad of that assurance. But paragraph 2 of that Government Order would make it appear that it will include all schools within the area of a local body. The Government Order says 'schools within their area'; if it says 'Schools under their management or control,' one can understand it. However we have now the assurance of the Hon. Minister, but the Government Order of April 1930 is ancient history. If I refer to it, it is only for the purpose of showing that the subsequent stages have not taken us anywhere."

"We have the Government Order of 1933; that is the latest Government Order which according to the Hon. the Minister should satisfy us; that Government Order says:—'While the Government agree that schemes of consolidation should comprise schools under all agencies, they consider that, in view of possible opposition from certain quarters,

[Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

[21st March 1934]

the scheme proposed for each area should be such as to secure the maximum amount of amalgamation possible under the circumstances prevailing in the area to which it relates.' How is this order to be translated or interpreted? It says, 'in view of possible opposition'—i.e., you expect opposition—but still the subordinates of the Education department are thereby enjoined to see that they secure the 'maximum amount of amalgamation'. Is it to be in spite of the opposition? It may perhaps be stated by the Hon. Minister that the safety lies in the fact that whereas according to the Government Order of 1930 the final authority was the Director of Public Instruction, the final authority under the present order is the Government. I see that each scheme as it is submitted to the Director of Public Instruction, is to be scrutinized by him and passed on to the Government. Then the Government Order says:

'The Government also consider that, as the financial effect of each scheme should be considered before an announcement is made as to the utilization of the savings that are likely to result from its adoption, the final orders on each scheme should be passed by Government. The scheme should contain the following particulars: the present total cost of maintenance of the schools, the cost according to the scheme and the savings anticipated.'

Your order shows that you give a direction to your subordinates that the maximum amount of amalgamation should be achieved by them, even though to that amalgamation opposition from certain interests is anticipated. Then you say it should be submitted to the Government, not for any other purpose, but to consider the financial aspect of it. Otherwise the Government are not going to have a say in the matter. That is the latest Government Order. How does the Hon. Minister expect us to be satisfied that our interests will be properly safeguarded with a Government Order of that sort? I would respectfully submit that, as far this scheme is concerned, if it is going to be given effect to in spite of the opposition you find from all quarters—I would only endorse the suggestion that these proposals be scrutinized not merely by the Government but by Committees—territorial committees constituted for portions of the Province if need be, so that the interests affected might also have a say in the matter.

"The next question—an equally important one—is the question of co-education of girls and boys being put into the same school and brought up and taught in the same classes. Throughout, the Government seem to assume that this is the better course for the advancement of the Indian Nation; but that in view of possible objections from certain 'backward' quarters, separate schools may be tolerated for some time. In the Champion scheme itself it is stated that there is likely to be objection to this sort of co-education. I may state that, from our point of view, I do not object to co-education provided it is restricted to children below ten years of age. Whatever might be the practice in Western countries with a different civilization, I feel convinced that in our own country, with our social traditions, with our domestic habits, it is unsafe from every point of view to have grown-up children being put together and taught in the same schools. Personally, as I said, I have no objection to boys and girls below ten years of age being put

21st March 1934] [Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

in the same schools, but that would be subject to this condition; that if it is to be a case of having mixed schools, I would invariably insist upon teachers being mistresses rather than masters. I would much rather wish young boys being educated in schools managed by mistresses, rather than young girls being taught by young men-teachers, half-educated, with not much culture, their only qualification being the training course.

“ There is one other proposal of the Government, viz., that girls, if there be a sufficient number of them, will be put in a separate section in the same central school under probably a male teacher. What is to become then of the innumerable number of schools which are being maintained by Catholic sisters whether European or Indian? Do the Government reasonably expect that these sisters will reconcile themselves to being mistresses in a school which is probably superintended and managed by a layman-headmaster? Would it be fair on your part to pull out these Catholic sisters who from high motives of service to God and humanity have chosen a cloistered life? Do you expect them to work in these central schools under the management and in the company of men-teachers? If that be not your idea, is it your aim then, to drive out these sisters from the educational field altogether? It seems to me that there is no middle course between these two positions. Either these sisters will be compelled to do what I know they will not do—that is, to work in mixed schools— or they will be sent out of the educational field altogether. These are some of the objections, Sir, which I have on the question of co-education.”

The Hon. DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—“ The hon. Member will continue his speech to-morrow.

“ The House will now adjourn and meet again to-morrow at 11 a.m.”

III.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* *Communication with reference to the Legislative Council Question No. 504 answered on 29th January 1934.*

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.